

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, February 6, 2014

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High-flyer opens a boutique in village

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New-look Len

Serious direction for popular comedian

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Musical youth

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Mortgage arrears team get 229 calls

A MORTGAGE arrears advice service received 229 calls to help families who feared they could lose their home in just six months.

Referrals for people in need of help because of the possibility of repossession were logged between April and September by the Dudley service. During the same period in 2012 there were 185 referrals logged.

In the 'vast majority of cases', the service has been able to offer advice and support to prevent the loss of homes.

It is a free service for anyone having difficulty keeping up monthly mortgage or secured loan payments.

Councillor Steve Walther, cabinet member for housing, said: "This is an excellent, free service which is available to anyone living within the Dudley borough who is worried about debt and losing their home."

"The pressures of modern living often lead to people getting into debt after and this initiative means that they have someone who they can turn to. The service is confidential and impartial, and is run in partnership between Dudley Council and the Dudley Citizens Advice Bureau."

Anyone who wants to use the free service can call 01384 816499 or visit their local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

More work on major route

MOTORISTS are being warned of more traffic problems on a major route as part of the second phase of repair work on leaking water pipes.

South Staffordshire Water has completed a two-month project underneath Birmingham New Road, between Wolverhampton and Dudley. But now repairs are needed to the road which will lead to two weekends of disruption. Between February 14 and 17 and 21 and 24, lane closures will be in place between Shaw Road and Ivyhouse Lane junctions.

TOWN IS FIFTH IN LAZY LEAGUE

DUDLEY'S council leader says a report which claimed the borough's residents were among the most inactive in the country showed the split of people taking exercise and those 'stuffing themselves watching the television'.

Some 37.6 per cent of the borough's population has been deemed not to do enough activity — making the area the fifth least active area in the country, according to the research by health group UK Active.

David Sparks said there was a 'massive' involvement in sport in the borough but there were also too many people eating too much and not exercising enough.

He said: "Dudley is no different to anywhere else. We have a constantly increasing number of gyms and a huge network of other sports facilities."

Jobs

"UK Active is obviously a credible organisation and their research shows that the whole of the UK needs to pay far more attention to diet and exercise."

"What is happening in Dudley I suppose is a paradox — you have an increasing number of people taking exercise and an increasing number who are stuffing themselves watching the television."

Ninder Johal, vice president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the area, said the issue could be down to the jobs people are doing.

More workers in areas

By Tim Spiers and Alex Homer

such as Dudley and Sandwell, which was second on the list, now find themselves in sedentary jobs in the service industry, he said.

Mr Johal added: "What you can't ignore is people's social behaviour and the types of jobs they do. People are working long hours sitting down, gyms are quite expensive for some and they might go home and sit down and watch television."

The report warned that a 'pandemic' of inactivity in poor areas of England was leading to premature deaths. Thirteen of the top 15 local authorities where people are the most inactive also sit in some of the most deprived parts of the country, said experts from the not-for-profit health group. Where inactivity levels are at their highest, early deaths also peak, the study found.

Manchester topped the lazy league, with 40 per cent of its residents deemed to be inactive. Sandwell was fractionally ahead of Salford, while Dudley was fifth on 37.6 per cent.

In the 15 most inactive local authorities, there is an average of 342 premature deaths per 100,000 people per year, compared with 242 in those where people exercise the most.

A weigh to go — so hurry up Orry



Patagonian sealion, Orry, tips the scales at a respectable 63-stone during his daily winter weigh-ins at Dudley Zoo

HE tips the scales at a whopping 63st and eats buckets of sprats, mackerel and herring a day to keep in top shape.

Patagonian sealion Orry also has to have daily weigh-ins ensure he stays fit and healthy during the winter months.

The 22-year-old heavyweight needs to bulk up during the colder weather to endure the icy water in the moat pools around 11th century Dudley Castle at the heart of the zoological gardens. But his monster weight will only last until the weather warms up when it will fall to a more light 50st.

The zoo's head of media and communications, Jill Hitchman, said: "Sealions have a thick layer of fat be-

neath their skin which acts as insulation during chilly periods, rather like a duvet, and at this time of year keepers weigh Orry each day to make sure he is the optimum weight."

"He receives an average of eight kilos of sprats a day, in addition to mackerel and herring, but will eat less when the weather warms up, when his weight will fall to a more sprightly 320kg, or 50 stone."

Predators

Patagonian sealions are found on the Chilean, Ecuador, Peruvian, Uruguayan, Argentine and Southern

Brazilian coasts. The males are much larger than females with a thick, maned neck and large head, giving them a lion-like appearance. Both sexes have upturned snouts and external ears.

In the wild, the sealions are large and fearsome predators, but are preyed upon themselves by killer whales, which go so far as to beach themselves in pursuit of a sea lion pup.

They are carnivores, feeding primarily on schooling fish, such as anchovies and hake. They will also feed on squid and octopus or on whatever food is seasonally available.

Tiger Talk — See page 16

TV stars arrive to look for new talent

IT has spawned performing dogs, dance troupes and singing stars and now Britain's Got Talent is back in Birmingham to unearth even more entertainers.

The famous faces of the hit television show had the red carpet treatment this week as they arrived for auditions at the ICC.

Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, David Williams and Amanda Holden — who was sporting an 80s look in a white power suit and slicked back hair — were joined by Ant and Dec. The Georgie double act stopped to sign autographs and pose for pictures with the many fans on their way into the venue.

Surprises

Ant said: "This is our eighth series but there's always surprises. In the past we've had dog acts but this time we're expecting to see an owl agility act. It's always good coming to Birmingham."

The judging quartet of Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Williams and, finally, Simon Cowell were hot on the heels of the presenters, who scooped the National Television Awards Landmark Honour.

Alesha revealed a new addition to this year's series — a gold button which judges can press to automatically catapult contestants through to the live shows.

Tunnels to close again

DRIVERS are being urged to make alternative plans to use public transport as council bosses announced further closures of Birmingham's A38 tunnels.

The St Chad's and Queensway tunnels will be closed to traffic from 10pm on July 18 until 6am on September 1.

The work will take place following two weeks of overnight closures, from 10pm to 6am, and followed by up to four weeks of more overnight closures. City bosses say the work is essential.



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Couples can say I do and then BOGOF

IT may not sound romantic but BOGOF register office wedding deals could be a clincher for cash-strapped couples tying the knot on a budget.

Dudley Register Office is trying out the quirky deal at its Grade I listed Priory Hall, where couples can say 'I do' and 'I do' again for half the price.

The venue is inviting brides and grooms to team up with other en-

gaged couples to purchase two ceremonies for the price of one.

It is the latest way for couples to save money on their big day and it could be worth up to £240 per couple, depending on which day of the week they pick.

Sunday ceremonies usually cost £480 while Saturdays are priced at £310, Fridays £210 and Mondays to Thursdays £160.

In recent years there has been a

growing number of brides buying second-hand dresses.

The Buy One Get One Free offer extends to wedding vows, so a young couple could go halves with parents wanting to reaffirm their commitment to each other.

Naming ceremonies — an alternative to christenings for children — and civil partnerships are included in the deal at the venue which hosts more than 1,000 ceremonies a year.

Penny Fulford, superintendent registrar at Priory Hall, said the offer would help couples save money.

She said: "This is the first time that we have tried a BOGOF deal, so we will see how popular it proves to be."

Mrs Fulford, a registrar for nearly 17 years, said besides helping couples, it was hoped the offer would boost bookings. Call 01384 815373.

Police in probe on shooting at driver

A GUN was fired during a 'targeted attack' on a man driving a car along a main road, police have revealed.

Officers closed off a section of Dudley Road, in Brierley Hill, as an investigation was launched.

And police confirmed there was evidence to suggest a firearm had been discharged.

The road at the scene of a shooting has reopened as police investigations continue.

The 34-year-old driver reported being attacked while driving his car at around 5am on Sunday, January 26. He was not injured.

Officers said they had been trailing CCTV and searching an area of Dudley Road.

Inspector Jim Munro, from West Midlands Police Criminal Investigation Department, said: "There is evidence to suggest that a firearm was discharged. At this stage officers believe this was a targeted attack."

Police are still urging witnesses with any information to come forward on the 101 number.

Inspector Munro said officers believed it was an isolated incident.

Lots of fun at half-term

A HOST of activities have been lined up for a Black Country kids' fun club during half-term.

The Juniors at Museums (JAM) club will run across Dudley from February 15 to 23. Broadfield House Glass Museum, the Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Museum and Art Gallery will host sessions.

Events include the chance to make a glass tile at the Glass Cone, while Broadfield House is running an interactive story trail. At Dudley Museum children can take part in a family crafts day inspired by Disney movie Frozen.

Bridal bouquet

A BRIDAL boutique in Halesowen came third in a wedding magazine's retailer of the year award. The Dressing Rooms, launched by Rebecca Baddeley in Manor Lane eight years ago, was nominated by customers for Your and Your Wedding's prize.

THE people have spoken with a massive 55,000 signatures on a petition to save free transport for pensioners.

Now they face an anxious wait to see if they can stop the axe from falling on their much-needed services. transport authority Centro is planning cuts of £14 million which would see free tram and train travel stripped from pensioners.

Funding to help with cancer care

CANCER nurses have been presented with scholarships by a Black Country MP.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin handed out the awards to the medical staff who are based at Russells Hall Hospital's Georgina Unit.

The nurses will receive the further training at the unit thanks to the backing of the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund.

Specialist

The fund also raises cash to help pay for new specialist staff, equipment and respite breaks for patients and their families.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "All of the staff at Russells Hall's Georgina Unit do brilliant work and it's a huge honour to present them with these scholarships for further training."

He added: "The appeal fund continues to do great work in supporting the unit and I've been taken aback by the generosity of everyone involved."

The presentation took place at the Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund's annual general meeting on Friday.

This would come alongside the increase of child fares on buses and funding cut from the ring and ride service.

The organisation, funded by councils in the West Midlands, says it has to slash the budgets for 'discretionary' travel.

Under its cost-cutting plans, fares for children on buses would rise from half an adult fee to two thirds, while funding for the ring and ride service would be reduced.

Option

The authority said it also had the option of scrapping funding for children's bus fares and ring and ride, which provides a door-to-door service for older people.

Free bus travel for pensioners and the disabled will be protected because it is required by law. Centro had previously gone further by extending it to trams and trains and using its own budgets.

Walsall councillor Richard Worrall, who has launched the fight amid fears the elderly will suffer, was joined by members of West Midlands pensioners convention at a meeting in Birmingham of council leaders last week.

Bosses on the integrated transport authority shadow board were discussing funding for Centro and the cost-cutting plans at the behind-closed doors meeting. The final outcome will not be known until Centro meets on February 14.

Plea to help little Leah walk



Rowley Regis schoolgirl Leah Davy, aged four, with her mother Katherine

TAKING their first steps is usually one of the key developments in a child's life and a treasured memory for proud parents.

But four-year-old Leah Davy, who attends Springfield Primary School in Rowley Regis, has never been able to walk without help. Suffering with spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy, the youngster's leg muscles are so tight that she is left being unable to put her feet flat on the floor and walk.

But an operation followed by intense

physiotherapy offers Leah hope she will be able to take those unaided first steps. Her family have now launched an appeal to raise the £35,000 needed for the life-changing procedure and are being supported by charity Tree of Hope.

Leah's mum Katherine, 27, said it was hoped the operation would take place in the UK but they may have to travel to the USA to see specialists. For more information see the www.justgiving.com/leahswish website.

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NEWS

NEWS
in briefAuthor shares
tips on writing

BEST-SELLING author Miranda Dickinson has shared her writing top tips with college students. She visited Birmingham Metropolitan College's Stourbridge campus to offer advice on how to pursue a career as a writer.

Miranda, of Lower Gornal, has written five books, all appearing on the Sunday Times Best-Selling list, the most recent - Take a Look at Me Now - reaching number four. She has also been shortlisted twice for the Romantic Novelists' Association Awards.

Pamper night
means business

A CHARITY is promising plenty of glitz and glamour when it hosts a fundraising pamper evening next month.

The event in aid of Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind will take place on March 27. Businesses are offered the chance to showcase their wares on the night. Organiser Jo Field said: "We are planning an evening of glitz and glamour, fashion and fun."

The event will run from 6.30pm-9.30pm. See www.beacon4blind.co.uk for details.

Youth on song
for Barnardo's

THOUSANDS of young singers who took part in a huge choral event have raised almost £8,000 for charity.

Pupils at schools from across the Black Country joined others from across the Midlands in a special performance at the LG Arena in Birmingham.

Bucket collections for Barnardo's raised £7,954 during a four-night run.

New dog group
raised over £1k

THE newly-formed Haden Hill Dog Awareness Group has raised more than £1,000 for charity.

The group raised £1,032 with its first Dog Awareness Day in Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath, last year, which included a dog fun show, stalls and display teams. Members handed a cheque over to Hearing Dogs For Deaf People.

TV cop drama

A PERIOD crime drama set in the West Midlands returns to BBC1 next week. The new series of WPC 56 starts on Monday. Much of the filming took place at the Black Country Living Museum.

£167,000
funding to
boost high
streets

MORE than £160,000 is available in grants to boost struggling town centres, clean up high streets and tackle empty shops across Dudley.

Councillors say they want communities to take pride in their town centres across Dudley borough and instigate improvements.

Businesses and community groups can bid for a share of grants totalling £167,000 to breathe new life into ailing high streets.

Individuals or groups will be able to apply for grants to fund projects such as tidying up problem areas and schemes to encourage businesses.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss, Councillor Judy Foster, said the authority is working hard to bring improvements to town centres.

"We are inviting people who love their community to bid for pots of money to fund their own schemes and innovative projects which will help rejuvenate town and local centres."

Cash has been pooled including £100,000 from the High Street Innovation Fund handed to councils in the wake of a report by retail guru Mary Portas. There is also the £52,000 from the empty shops grant.

Man denies
sex charge

A 55-year-old man from Lye has appeared in court accused of dangerous driving and attempting to meet a 13-year-old girl for sex.

Pervez Akhtar appeared at Leamington Magistrates' Court. It is alleged that he drove at another man and broke his leg at Nuneaton on June 4. He is further accused of trying to meet a girl he contacted online with the intention of engaging in sexual activity with her at Worcester.

Akhtar indicated not guilty pleas to both charges and was unconditionally bailed to appear at Warwick Crown Court on May 23.

Cheers to Marilyn

A Black Country brewery's latest ale has been named in honour of movie star Marilyn Monroe.

Some Like it Blonde - a 4.5 per cent strength beer - went on sale in Holden's 20 pubs in the Black Country and surrounding area on Monday.

Homes proposed at nature reserve site

PLANS to breathe new life into the site of a former 19th century manor house in a Dudley nature reserve by creating new homes and a £300,000 warden's base are poised to be given the go-ahead.

The development for the land at Saltwells has been proposed by Selbourne Homes. It was left vacant after Saltwells House was knocked down three years ago.

Under the plans a single-storey warden's base which will be used by staff working in the nature reserve as well as visitors and schoolchildren will be built.

Five detached houses would also be constructed in a 'woodland style' to fit in with the surroundings.

Planning officers at Dudley Council have backed the scheme saying it will make a 'positive contribution' to the site and would not harm the nature reserve.

A report by case officer Vijay Kaul said: "The proposed development would not have an adverse effect on animal species, amenity of existing or future occupiers or highway safety."

Dudley Council has agreed to earmark

£120,000 from the reserves budget of the council's urban environment directorate for the new base.

Classrooms

Environment councillor Tracy Wood said: "The exciting proposal for the warden's base on the old Saltwells House site will give the nature reserve a facility that can be used by the whole community."

Gavin Warr, managing director of Hagley-based Selbourne Homes said the warden's base would also have classrooms for

schoolchildren learn about the woodlands and nature reserve.

Saltwells House had been ravaged by vandals and was attacked by arsonists on several occasions after it shut in 2001. The building, off Pedmore Road, opposite the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, had previously been used as a school and a nursing home.

Dudley Council disposed of the Saltwells House site in March 2010 to its Limited Liability Partnership company PSP Dudley. It was demolished soon after despite calls for it to be retained and renovated.

Watchdog concerns on
hospital parking demand

A PATIENTS' watchdog group has backed controversial plans to replace a walk-in centre with an urgent care centre at Russells Hall Hospital but has raised concerns about parking at the hospital.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group - CCG - intends to close the walk-in centre at Holly Hall Clinic, in Stourbridge Road, and move services to a new unit at the hospital.

The plan looks set to go ahead after Paul Maubach, chief officer at the CCG, told the council's health scrutiny committee that he was recommending it goes ahead following a consultation.

The new centre would work alongside the accident and emergency department and would be available 24 hours, seven days a week for patients to walk in or make appointments.

Improve

At the council meeting last week, councillors raised concerns over the plan and Councillor Bryan Cotterill said it was against the patients' wishes. But Healthwatch Dudley, a group representing patients, said the proposal would 'improve' the service.

Chairman Pam Bradbury said: "We feel the service will be improved by the proposed increased opening hours and appointment booking system but we do have a concern regarding the insufficient parking facilities at the hospital."

Report by Alex Ross

"We appreciate this issue needs to be balanced with improved access to a high quality clinical service. We will be listening carefully to patient voices and experiences to ensure the service specification for the new walk-in centre meets the needs of local people."

Dudley CCG has a £1.4 million contract with healthcare firm Primecare to run the centre. It was due to run out in April but has been extended to September while plans for the future are drawn up.

The group carried out an independent patient survey of people attending the accident and emergency department at Russells Hall Hospital and at the walk-in centre. The CCG is now working on a more detailed plan to bring before councillors. The walk-in centre contract ends in September.

Officers will be sharing the results of the consultation on February 13 from 5.30pm until 7.30pm at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Boxers going toe-to-toe

A BIG crowd is expected for a fundraising boxing event at Brierley Hill where young fighters will go glove-to-glove to help their club.

Nearly all 300 tickets have sold out to see the bouts between members of Priory Park Boxing Club at The Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, on February 22. For tickets call 07528 545586 or email prioryparkpromotions@gmail.com or visit www.prioryparkboxing.co.uk



Vicki Hancox is pictured at her new shop, The Village Boutique, in Kinver High Street

Stylish
village
venture
for Vicki

SHE had a jet-setting job as a managing director flying around the world brokering deals with bosses from major high street names such as Marks & Spencer.

But entrepreneur Vicki Hancox has swapped her lifestyle to start up her own business, running The Village Boutique near Stourbridge. It is a far cry from her career flying out to Morocco, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong to seal contracts before arriving back for boardroom meetings in London.

Yet village life is proving fruitful for the 44-year-old who is now just as happy selecting unique items to stock her ornate high street store in Kinver.

"I'm excited by the new challenge. I've had some nice comments about the boutique already," she said.

Vicki, who lives in Halesowen, worked her way up the career ladder at haberdashery firm Newey Goodman in Tipton.

She moved on to its parent company Prym, rising to become one of its directors. Vicki managed accounts for major retailers such as Marks & Spencer and Agent Provocateur, eventually becoming UK managing director.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



A COMMITTEE of MPs has criticised the Royal Household for spending money unwisely. So that's a stern memo to Queen Kettle from the House of Pots.

□□□□□□□□

IN FACT, is there a more wasteful institution in the world than the UK Parliament? You would think by now, with 70 per cent of our laws passed in Brussels and separate governments established in Scotland, Wales and Ulster, that the Commons could do its job with far fewer MPs. Yet 650 fat bottoms are still crammed on to those leather benches with a further 800 – an all-time record – in the Lords. Never in the field of human politics have so many done so little and charged so much.

□□□□□□□□

A DRIVER-v-cyclist video went viral. It shows a white Audi edging into a cycle-only box in London. A cyclist remonstrates with the driver. The Audi sets off, the cyclist puts his angry face against the driver's window and rages: "You ****ing p****!" At this point someone gets out of the Audi and thumps the cyclist. Judging from the comments to the video, how you react to this incident depends entirely on your mode of transport. Cyclists see it as a shocking assault on one of their clan. Drivers see an obscenity-yelling cyclist getting his comeuppance. (Seriously, if you stick your face a few inches from a stranger's face and call him a "****ing p****!" what do you expect?) A visitor from Mars would study the scene and wonder why in the name of sanity they are all sharing the same roads.

□□□□□□□□

ED Balls's plan for a 50p rate appeals to the politics of envy, that British belief the "rich" (which usually means those earning £10,000-a-year more than us), should suffer for their success. Surely the ocean-cruise industry is a more effective cure for our envy than the tax system. Another 300 well-heeled passengers have been stricken with sickness and diarrhoea in the Caribbean. Is there any greater joy than hearing your rich friends, having boasted for months about their cruise, have just spent £10,000 and six days on the loo?

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Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Teen's killer must stay in prison says mother

New £1m campaign to tackle HIV cases

A £1.2 MILLION sexual health programme is being commissioned in a bid to reduce teenage pregnancies and cut the soaring number of people living with HIV.

Sandwell Council is commissioning a new contraception and sexual health service for young people in the borough from the start of April. It comes after a 666 per cent rise was recorded in HIV cases in Sandwell over the past 10 years, with statistics from Public Health England revealing one in every 404 people in the borough now has the illness. This means Sandwell has been classed a 'high prevalence area'.

The borough has also historically had the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the Black Country, but numbers have been cut by a third since 1998.

The idea behind the new service is 'early help' and it will be targeted at people aged 11 to 24. It will improve young people's access to advice, education, contraception and sexual health services.

Councillor Paul Moore, health and wellbeing chief, said: "The increase in HIV diagnoses seen in Sandwell is comparable to the increase in other areas. It's partly due to more people coming forward for testing."

THE mother of a teenager murdered by prison escapee Alan Giles is launching a petition to keep her son's killer behind bars.

Quinton student Kevin Ricketts was just 16 when he was kidnapped and murdered by Giles, formerly from Oldbury. But his devastated mother Carole Ricketts, of Northfield, has said she will do 'everything in her power' to try to stop Giles getting parole.

Giles was on the run for nine days in October last year after fleeing from an open section of HMP Hewell.

The 56-year-old was later arrested in Alcester and was given a further six month sentence on top of the life term he is already serving for Kevin's brutal murder.

Parole

But Mrs Ricketts has called for him not to be given parole or to be allowed within 100 miles of her family.

She said she was 'absolutely terrified' when he escaped.

She added she should have been told that Giles was in an open prison just eight miles from her home.

Grandmother-of-eight Mrs Ricketts said her son was 'quiet and shy'.

"Kevin's shyness was almost a disability," she said. "He wouldn't even have shouted for help when he

by Simon Stone

took him. He targeted Kevin because he was weak – people pick on the vulnerable."

She added: "Kevin was my best friend, my beautiful boy. We all miss him every day. We miss his laughter."

Kevin was abducted as he was supposed to catch a bus to South Birmingham College where he was a carpentry student.

The bus stop was 100 yards from his home but at around 7am on January 31, 1995, as he left to go to college, Giles abducted and later murdered him.

Giles was jailed for the teenager's murder in 1997. He originally refused to say where he had buried Kevin's body but eventually phoned police from his cell to confess and to reveal where he had buried the body.

Giles had previously been in a relationship with Mrs Ricketts' daughter Elizabeth but she had left their seven-year relationship.

Entrepreneur's charity venture



Mayor Alan Finch Sally Insley, Ann Fowler and her son Ben

A CHILDREN'S charity will be quids in after securing the backing of a young apprentice keen to help fundraising efforts.

Ben Fowler, who featured on television show The Young Apprentice, is lending his support thanks to his new business venture.

The 18-year-old will be fundraising for Acorns Children's Hospice at his cafe and coffee house called Benno's based in Halesowen Road, Halesowen.

They struck up a partnership after charity bosses saw his exploits in the boardroom which impressed the formidable business boss Lord Sugar.

And now the young entrepreneur has started on his own career path, he said it was time to give something back for future generations.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, arrived at the cafe to help him launch the venture and his new cafe to help bring in money for the charity.

Almost £50 was raised on the first day with donations for coffees, teas and cakes. Further events are planned.

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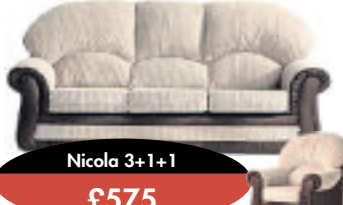
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Sandwell shamed in league of laziest

RESIDENTS in two Black Country areas have been judged among the worst in the entire country for being active.

Sandwell narrowly missed out on being branded the couch potato capital of England and Dudley wasn't much further behind.

Almost 40 per cent of the Sandwell's lethargic population is 'inactive', according to new statistics from health group UK Active. Its report warned that a 'pandemic' of inactivity in poor areas of England was leading to premature deaths.

Thirteen of the top 15 local authorities where people are the most inactive also sit in some of the most deprived parts of the country, said experts from the not-for-profit health group.

Where inactivity levels are at their highest, early deaths also peak, their study found.

Manchester topped the lazy league, with 40 per cent of its residents deemed to be inactive.

Sandwell followed closely behind on 39 per cent, fractionally ahead of Salford, while Dudley was fifth on 37.6 per cent.

In the 15 most inactive local authority areas, there is an average of 342 premature deaths per 100,000 people per year, compared with 242 where people exercise the most.

New £3m centre is hub for college-uni partnership

A NEW multi-million college centre is ready to help the next generation of student achieve their university aspirations.

Bosses at Halesowen College have put the finishing touches to a £20 million transformation of their Whittingham Road campus over the past five years. New teaching buildings for animal studies students, science laboratories and IT facilities are among those which have transformed the site.

Work on the £3m Block 11 has been completed. It is to be known as the University Centre and is ready to be previewed to potential students.

Halesowen College has a long standing partnership with the University of Worcester and Newman University to extend its offering of courses and options for students.

The college offers Foundation Degrees as well as a number of HNC and HND programmes including animal management, business, graphics web design and multimedia, health and social care, public services and sports studies.

It is an aim that students in the second year of study to embark on undergraduate units with partner universities to help prepare them for transition to higher education.

Halesowen College prin-

by Simon Stone

incipal Keith Bate said: "The establishment of a University Centre at the college is included in the final phase of our £20m scheme to re-develop the Whittingham Campus.

"Collaborative approaches to learning with key partners are fundamental to the college's strategy in providing extensive opportunities for local people to extend their horizons through education."

"We are passionate to support students of all ages into University courses and offer these alternative routes.

"The University Centre will be the hub of activity for our range of higher education courses to support local people in moving forward in their education and careers.

"Students finishing their BTEC courses or A levels with us will have a bigger choice of options which is fantastic news."

Forgotten war graves uncovered



With rediscovered graves are Arthur Cox, Stan Whitworth, Norman Catton, Colin Stevens, Katryn Leclezio and Peter Perry

A small but dedicated band of ex-servicemen has rescued 13 war graves — one of which dates back to the second Boer War — from being lost in undergrowth in the grounds of St Peter's Church, in Cradley.

Now they are being spruced up to cherish the memory of local men who lay down their lives for their country, in time for the centenary of the out-

break of the First World War later this year. Members of Cradley and District Ex Service Association are appealing for information about the men.

Norman Catton, 78, chairman of the association, said: "British graves abroad are groomed and cherished but in this country many have become a heap of rubbish. It's time we put that right and honoured our war dead."

Around seven members of the association rolled up their sleeves to clear brambles, shrubs and trees from the overgrown churchyard to uncover the graves. The work was funded by a £9,000 grant from the Ibstock Cory Environment Trust, £105 from the Two Gates Ragged School Fund and help from offenders through the probation service 'payback' scheme.

NEWS in brief

Peaky Blinders film crew return

TELEVISION crews are set to return to the Black Country Living Museum for a second series of gangster drama Peaky Blinders. Filming of the new series is due to begin this month, to be aired in the autumn.

Peaky Blinders, set in Birmingham's underworld in the aftermath of the First World War, scooped awards at a prestigious international arts festival. Cillian Murphy, who plays gang leader Tommy Shelby, took the Best Actor award at the 27th Festival International de Programmes Audiovisuels in Biarritz. Helen McCrory was Best Actress role for her portrayal of family matriarch, Aunt Polly.

Flybe unveiling major expansion

FLYBE have unveiled plans for seven new routes from Birmingham as it turns the Midlands airport into its biggest base with 50 new jobs and 12 aircraft.

Another three 88-seat Embraer 175 jets will be based at Birmingham International as it starts running a six times a week service to Florence, daily flights to Cologne and a six times a week service to Toulouse.

Flybe planes will also be flying to Alicante five times a week as well as four times a week to Bordeaux, Palma, Mallorca and Porto.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

MEANWHILE, Manchester United star Ashley Young has been handed a six-month driving ban. Sorry, I mean a driving ban. Whatever was I thinking of?

I'LL leave it to others to comment on the rights and wrongs of railway union leader Bob Crow for masterminding a tube strike while sunning himself in Brazil while wearing a rather dubious pair of Bermuda shorts.

What I will observe though is that a few years ago Bob was among the speakers at a day to mark the 100th anniversary of the Cradley chainmakers' strike. In the early 20th century, the mainly female workers of the Black Country chain industry lived in abject poverty, working back-breaking hours in squalid conditions for a pittance of pay, and it fell to Mary MacArthur, the daughter of a wealthy Scottish draper, to take on their oppressive bosses.

Aside from the fact that Bob turned what should have been a fascinating celebration of Black Country history into a bellicose political rally, he also throughout the duration of his long-winded speech, repeatedly referred to his heroine as 'Mary McCarthy'.

Considering he was such a big admirer, you might have thought he would have least got her name right.

A SIX-year-old boy has been suspended from school for taking a packet of Mini Cheddars in his lunch box. Riley Pearson's parents have now been summoned to the headmaster's study after the youngster was banned for not having a 'healthy and balanced' packed lunch.

Excuse me? Since when did a headmaster's remit extend to policing our dietary habits? If it were up to me, I would be telling him to ditch the Mini Cheddars and to tuck into some good old pork scratchings like a proper Black Country mon, but each to their own, live and let live and all that. This really does take the biscuit.

BRITAIN'S most tattooed man is not a happy bunny after being refused a new passport having changed his name by deed poll. It seems officials did not consider 'King of Ink Land King Body Art The Extreme Ink-It' to be a proper name, and suggested that he should continue calling himself Mathew Whelan instead. Apparently, Body - as he is known to his friends - has spent £30,000 on making himself look about as ridiculous as is humanly possible. His face is now entirely covered with a green psychedelic pattern, apart from two small holes for his eyes. And he has a couple of clumps of hair on his head, which look like a pair of freshly grown spring onions.

Mr Art says he needs a passport as it is intention to work overseas. As what? A scarecrow?



Woolworths in High Street, Bilston, now an Argos



Poundland has replaced Walsall's Woolworths store



Site of the old Woolworths in Dudley, now Plaza Mall

Woolies filled but never replaced

How have the stores fared since they closed five years ago? **WILL ACKERMANN** has been finding out

IT WAS the store everybody knew and loved, a British institution dating back 100 years.

In its heyday, Woolworths was as much a feature of the UK high street as the pavements and lamp-posts themselves.

But it has now been five years since that fateful day when the nation's favourite retailer went bust and had to close its 807 stores, with the loss of more than 30,000 jobs. The news was mourned by shoppers far and wide, while retail analysts warned it was a sign of worse to come as consumers began tightening their purse strings.

Unfortunately, they were proved right as other high-street giants have fallen victim to the recession.

But now that the dust has settled since Woolworths entered administration in 2009, what has become of all its empty units? Sadly, across the country more than 100 of them remain vacant and a further 68 have been demolished.

Others, however, have become home to new shops, many of them bargain stores - showing how shoppers these days want to spend a penny, rather than a pound. Low price bargains are their unique selling points.

Budget supermarket Iceland has occupied the highest number of former Woolies premises nationally, with 59. Close behind with 57 is Willenhall-based Poundland, while at third is 99p Stores, which has 47. Fourth is B&M Bargains, with 43.

But Will Roberts, of the British Retail Consortium, said stores catering for those with more expensive tastes are also sprouting up. He said: "Although a number of vacant stores have been taken over by discount traders in recent years, we



Discount UK Home Store has taken over the old Woolworths in Wolverhampton

are also seeing high end stores such as Hotel Chocolat opening up new premises." The BRC's latest figures from October show 13 per cent of commercial properties remain vacant in town and city centres in the West Midlands and Staffordshire.

However, many of the stores once adorned with Woolies' iconic red and white signs have been snapped up by other occupants.

Before appointing administrators, the company had outlets in Wolverhampton, Wednesfield, Bilston, Walsall, Bloxwich, Blackheath, Bearwood,

Wednesbury, Dudley, Halesowen, Brierley Hill, Kidderminster, Stafford, Lichfield and Cannock.

Of those 15 premises, two are occupied by discount grocery and frozen food retailer Bargain Foods; two are run by rent-to-own retailer BrightHouse, where customers can bag anything from a television set to a three-piece suite in weekly payments; two are Poundlands; with the remaining home to Discount UK, Argos, Heron Frozen Foods, Tesco, a Plaza Mall, a YMCA charity shop, Sports Direct and B&M Bargains.

The final Woolies staff barely had

time to pack up their belongings and leave the door, before some units were re-occupied, with others taking longer to attract new owners. Bosses at the Mander Centre, Wolverhampton struggled to fill the vacant unit left by Woolworths, and for three years it sat empty.

The centre itself was built in the 1960s, but Woolworths had already been trading long before it opened. The store became one of the biggest Woolworths branches in the West Midlands.

When it closed its doors, up to 40 workers lost their jobs. There was a glimmer of hope when businessman Tony Swannie, who runs the Aldridge based Plaza Malls, suggested he might open another Plaza Mall in the old store, but the deal fell through.

It was only in October 2012 that budget chain Discount UK stepped in to bring the shop back to life. The store, which sells items priced from 28p to £25, created 40 jobs when it took over the vacant unit.

It did not take quite as long for those in Wednesfield and Bilston to be filled. In September 2009, the unit in Bilston was taken over by catalogue shop Argos which had been relocated from 55-57 Church Street. Whereas in Wednesfield the discount grocery and frozen foods shop Bargain Foods took over the High Street unit.

In contrast to Wolverhampton, the high street locations of many of the Woolworths stores in Sandwell were quickly pounced upon. The first was in Blackheath, where Heron Frozen Foods transformed the High Street venue in May 2009.

In Bearwood, Tesco created 12 jobs when it opened an Express store in the former Woolworths in September 2009. In June of that year, Caversham Finance, which runs the rent-to-buy store BrightHouse, took over the Wednesbury's empty Woolworths shop on Market Place.

The Shop Direct Group bought the Woolworths and Ladybird brands, securing their futures online, but the high street will never look the same again.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

CONTROVERSIAL plans were revealed to convert a disused church in Wolverhampton into part of a giant supermarket.

Sainsbury's said the scheme for St George's Church would create 200 new jobs.

THE halfpenny coin was to be discontinued, Chancellor Nigel Lawson announced. Traders in the West Midlands showed little regret at its passing.

ENGINEERING workers leader Terry Duffy called for a 26-hour working week during a debate organised by Tettenhall Rotary Club. But he said it would do nothing to stop unemployment soaring to five or six million by the end of the 1980s.

1994

WOLVERHAMPTON Labour MP Dennis Turner called on all eight directors of the company which made Banks's beer to resign after they accepted huge pay increases. Mr Turner attacked David Thompson, managing director of Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries, for accepting a £912 pay rise at a time when the Government had been urging executives to keep a lid on their earnings.

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers proved the romance of the FA Cup was alive and well by knocking Preston North End out of the competition with a 1-0 win at Aggborough, securing a place in the Fifth Round.

2004

THE audience of the US Superbowl stared in disbelief as Justin Timberlake 'accidentally' tore Janet Jackson's dress during the half-time entertainment, exposing her breast. Jackson later admitted that the stunt had been planned in advanced, and apologised if she had offended anybody.

THE 500th free burglar alarm was installed in a crime-plagued area of Wolverhampton. Extra locks were also fitted to homes in All Saints, Blakenhall and Parkfields.

FORMER Wolves captain Geoff Thomas was said to be recovering well in hospital after receiving a bone marrow transplant with his nurse sister Kay Hill. The player, who lived in Bromsgrove, had been diagnosed with leukaemia the previous year and the operation was his only chance of a complete cure.

WOLVES manager Dave Jones was said to be furious after his son sold Kenny Miller's shirt from the victory over Manchester United to a dealer over the internet. He believed it was going to a charity but the shirt was sold on eBay for £6,600.

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LETTERS

Slimmer and more effective government

THE West Midlands is being denied a say about its future; it is excluded from the debate about the future of Scotland and its implications for the rest of the UK. It is also excluded from any debate about the future of local government, some of which is facing bankruptcy and massive cuts in services.

Whatever the outcome of the Scottish referendum, Scotland and Wales will get more powers which will have implications for the future of Westminster and subnational Government in England.

Sub national Government in England is weak. It is a complex jigsaw of

largely anonymous local councils and unelected quangos. Local government is struggling to survive, quangos are controlled from Westminster and have very limited, if any, credibility or capacity to really influence public policy and the way private monopolies — including the energy companies control our lives.

Our local authorities are either too small to deal effectively with national and regional challenges or too large to connect with the local.

Why in the West Midlands with a population of 5 million — the same as Scotland — do we have four police

forces compared with one in Scotland? Why do we have nearly 60 MPs, thousands of councillors and members of quangos all paid by the tax payer? Major surgery is needed.

This has to include a system of regional and local government which is slimmer and far more effective. This has to be balanced by a significant downsizing and refocusing at Westminster on UK business with fairer voting for all levels of Government. We don't need more politicians but better government.

G MORRAN
Dudley

Tendency to forget repair bills

READING the article about the Trafalgar Court flats has brought me to comment on the ongoing maintenance of private property. With the fall in interest rates more people have been encouraged to enter the buy-to-let market but what happens as these properties need work and money spent on them? Private landlords may not have saved money to keep their properties in good order, or they may be faced with having to spend on their own dwelling and have to choose which property gets the money. Meanwhile the tenant is still paying the full rent on what could be a sub-standard home.

I also think we could have a time bomb with older people owning their own home but not having an income for the necessary repairs. It is great that home ownership has become possible for working class people but it comes with a big responsibility.

R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Now get rid of all the useless windmills

REGARDING the letter from R Taberner, I do not think you will find that extreme weather events are more frequent. The out of a job if they couldn't produce any evidence, however far-fetched.

I gather the Arctic icecap is rather substantial and it looks as though the Antarctic midsummer is still cold enough to leave ship loads of tourists trapped in ice for days.

The so-called problem is blamed on carbon dioxide but they don't tell us that this gas which is vital for all life on earth. As 'global warming' has now been swept under the carpet to join 'acid rain' and the 'ozone layer', let us hope 'climate change' is soon to join them in the dustbin of history.

I agree that we must rethink energy policies. First of all, abandon those useless windmills. Then ignore the EU directives to close perfectly operational conventional power stations and get new nuclear power stations built soon, preferably by British firms. Or else the lights will go out!

A WILKINS
Buttermere Close
Brierley Hill

Chaos at hospital's car park

REGARDING the article in your paper, about the closure of the Holly Hall walk-in clinic, Mr Paul Maubach and the Dudley health bosses, need to start visiting Russells Hall regularly.

My sister has been an in-patient for the last nine weeks, myself and all family members have been visiting twice every day. Afternoon visiting you cannot get a parking space, Monday to Friday it can't cope, now with the clinics and visiting, how do they expect it to add more to this, by closing the walk-in clinic?

You know the old saying, if it's not broke don't mend it, and the walk-in clinic is doing a splendid service.

The first seven weeks of my sister's stay there was only one barrier working on the access side to the car park. Nothing to do with the hospital but the charges you have to pay you would think this could be repaired quicker. It caused chaos.

V CARTWRIGHT
Dudley

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CLUB NEWS

Unexpected tales come to rescue

BLACKHEATH M TWG

THE guild meeting on Wednesday January 22 was opened by the club's chairman Doreen Armstrong at 10.30am.

Doreen welcomed members and visitors, a good turnout despite the cold weather.

Monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley and Press officer Iris Harris. Everyone was wished a Happy New Year and all agreed what a good time was had at the Christmas party.

Usually at the end of business our chairman introduces the speaker for the day, but the one lined up had unfortunately retired and was no longer available.

In true guild spirit, the ladies did not despair and a solution was found. The problem was solved by Beryl, who entertained everyone with a sample of 'Tales of the Unexpected' - an old television series.

She told four stories of strange and unusual happenings in her lifetime which were quite enthralling and a bit spooky.

A good round of applause was given to Beryl, and the meeting was closed at noon.

After that, the ladies were ready for their tea, coffee and biscuits before going home.

The next guild meeting will be on Wednesday, February 26 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, at 10.30am.

All visitors will be made welcome.

Hear ye of Town Crier's traditions



The origins of the Walsall Town Crier was the talk topic

WEST BROM CENTRAL

CHAIRMAN Joyce Brown opened the first meeting of 2014 by welcoming members and wishing them a healthy and prosperous New Year.

It was agreed by all present that the Christmas meeting had been extremely enjoyable with West Bromwich Central being joined by 12 members of the Wednesbury Guild with an interesting and informative talk on Christmas traditions past and present.

The annual New Year hamper raffle was won by vice-chairman Joan Cashmore, which was followed by tea and refreshments during which members were able to hear about the origins and duties of the Walsall official Town Crier and inspect various items of regalia associated with the role. A vote of thanks to the speaker was endorsed by members.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 10, at 2 p.m. at Moose Hall, Woodward Street, with a talk on amateur films. Further details may be obtained on 0121 588 2692.

Talk lives up to expectations

HAWNE 'E' TOWNSWOMEN

THE Christmas party was held on December 9. The business part of the meeting was kept as short as possible so members could get to the buffet.

All those attending had bought in a plate of food to contribute and as always the food was gorgeous.

The ladies were then entertained by Halesowen Ukulele Band who played skiffle, rock & roll and some Christmas songs. The chairman welcomed three visitors to

January's meeting and announced that subscription fees will be the same as last year. Members were reminded about the Federation St George's Day lunch.

John Billingham's talks are always eagerly looked forward to, and his talk on the Journey from Old Hill to Dudley lived up to expectations. The next meeting is on Monday, February 17.

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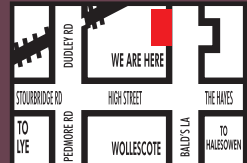
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NEWS

Europe's largest Hindu temple aims to expand



Development plans – The largest Hindu temple in Europe the Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) temple in Tivendale

IT is Europe's biggest Hindu temple and used by hundreds of people.

And now plans have been submitted for the creation of a yoga and meditation centre at Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple in Tivendale.

Faith leaders want to construct the two-storey Peace Temple on land in Dudley Road East. It would be used to practice and teach yoga and meditation and would be able to accommodate almost 100 people.

Planning documents submitted to

Sandwell Council state the temple complex is open to the public regardless of faith.

The building is designed to provide for 37 people in the yoga class area on the ground floor and for 57 people in the meditation area on the first floor.

Increase

The Peace Temple is not expected to increase the number of visitors to the complex at any one time or on occasions and the meditation space is designed to serve those who already visit the temple. Yoga classes will be held during designated times.

The documents add: "The Peace Temple is to complement the existing use of the site."

"As a place for meditation and contemplation, the proposal will support and enhance the spiritual nature of the site by adding to the existing facility to the visitors."

It is the latest expansion of the site which was also given approval to build a £500,000 one-storey building last year.

Leaders at the temple will build a Yagashala building, which caters for a special ceremony to introduce babies to the faith.



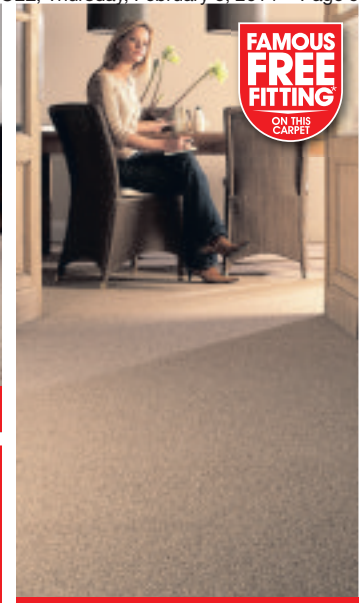
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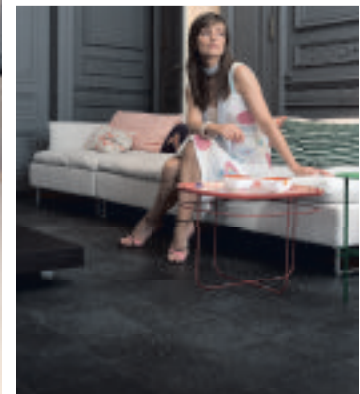
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MEMORY LANE



Cyril and his wife Eva who brought up Darrell when he was a baby



The iconic Molineux Road Stand where Cyril bought Darrell his first season ticket £4 under the old clock



Wolves hat-trick hero Terry Wharton

Cyril inspired a lifelong devotion of Wanderers

by Peter Madeley

HIS devotion to the boys in old gold and black was second to none.

An old soldier born and bred in the Black Country with a love for proper pork scratchings, Banks's Mild and Paravotti.

Cyril Yates died in March 2003, aged 84, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for a number of years, but his memory still shines brightly in the heart of his 'son' Darrell.

"He was always a very proud man," said Darrell, a Wolves season ticket holder who used to write under the pseudonym JIWAL - John Ireland Whinge A Lot - in the fanzine A Load Of Bull. "Dad was a strict disciplinarian with a dry sense of humour."

Darrell was actually Cyril's grandson, but he believed him to be his father until the age of nine because Cyril and his wife Eva had looked after him from birth.

"Cyril raised me and in my eyes he will always be my dad," said Darrell, a finance manager for Poplars, Cannock. "And it is certainly down to him that I developed such

a passion for the Wolves!" Cyril was born in Dixon's Green, Dudley, in 1918. After Second World War service in the army he worked at Bean Factory, Tipton, and Ratcliff's, Eagle Lane, Great Bridge.

Darrell, 55, said Cyril played cricket for Dudley in the Birmingham Cricket League. But his main sporting love was Wolverhampton Wanderers - an obsession he passed on to a nine-year-old Darrell in 1966. "That was the year he took me to my first game," said Darrell, from Dudley.

"We beat Cardiff 7-1 and Terry Wharton scored a hat-trick. I suppose that's when I got the bug! The following season he bought me my first season ticket."

One early recollection involves a young Darrell approaching the legendary comedian Tommy Trinder, who was chairman of Fulham at the time. Darrell said: "My dad told me to go and get Trinder's autograph as he came out onto the car park of the old social club. But when I approached him he belittled 'out of my way, sonny!' and brushed

me aside like paper. "My dad gave him the biggest verbal volley of all time - I was really shocked at the colourful language - and I remember Trinder's trademark trilby hat falling off his head!"

"After that dad would turn off the TV whenever Trinder appeared on screen."

At the late 70s Cyril stopped going to games because of the hooliganism but he was persuaded to return for the fourth division play-off final against Aldershot in 1987. "He was hooked again," said father-of-four Darrell. Before the game he was approached by rock legend Robert Plant, who asked if the seats next to them were taken. It was the start of a lasting friendship.

Cyril died just two months before his beloved Wolves won the play-off final in Cardiff to book a return to the top flight of English football for the first time in 21 years. Darrell regularly visits his parents' grave at Tipton Cemetery to keep Cyril up to date about Wolves. Darrell said: "I always think of my prized possession growing up as being my season ticket in seat E4 under the old clock in the Molineux Street Stand."



Cyril did not see the funny side when comedian Tommy Trinder was rude to Darrell



A chance meeting at Molineux led to a friendship between Cyril and rock legend Robert Plant

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NEWS

Student wins a place at an American college



Go west — Dan Hughes, from Haybridge High School, Hagley, is pictured with deputy head Rob Lightfoot

DELIGHTED student Dan Hughes will be swapping Worcestershire for the USA when he takes up a dream university place.

The pupil at Haybridge Sixth Form in Hagley has been chosen for a funded spot at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

The 18-year-old said: "I don't think words can describe quite how elated I feel."

Last summer he was one of 150 students who were selected from 1,200 applicants through the Sutton

Trust US Programme to experience a week at Yale University as a student on campus. This was followed by an intensive programme delivered in the UK by the US-UK Fulbright Commission to help him to make his college choice and prepare for crucial admissions tests.

Deputy headteacher Rob Lightfoot said: "This is the opportunity of a lifetime. We are thrilled for Dan and congratulate him - he is a talented and hard-working student who will make the most of this opportunity."

Dan, of Hagley, will be studying Liberal Studies and has received funding from the Sutton Trust. He said: "I

would like to thank the fantastic team at Sutton Trust for their support and the extraordinarily generous financial offer to make my dream come true. If hearing about my success can encourage someone else to apply for the programme I would be delighted."

The aim of the US programme is to encourage academically talented, low and middle income British students to study at American universities. Chairman Sir Peter Lampl said, "As well as offering a fantastic opportunity for some of our brightest young people, this lights a beacon for thousands of state school students who are genuine candidates for these universities."

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NEWS

Tribute paid to male stripper who inspired art

**THE male stripper whose
risque show in a Dudley pub
inspired one of Britain's best-
loved paintings has died at
the age of 87.**

Andy Wade was thought to be Britain's first male stripper.

His performance at Saltwells Inn in 1974 is thought to have been the basis for Ladies' Night, one of the most instantly recognisable paintings by novelty artist Beryl Cook.

The moment was captured on camera at the time by Express & Star man Graham Gough, and attracted worldwide attention after the pictures were reproduced in The Sun and German tabloid Bild.

Characters

It was then picked up by Cook, who was famous for her cartoon-like paintings featuring larger-than-life characters in different situations. Mr Wade, real name John Hotchkiss, later went on to work as an extra in the television series 'Allo 'Allo. He lived in the Northfield area of Birmingham before later moving to Wales.

Mr Gough, who lives in Kinver, paid tribute to the performer, saying he was a master showman. "He was

a nice bloke, really good fun to work with," he said. "I met him a couple of times afterwards. He always said the picture had done him a lot of good, he had received a lot of work as a result of it."

Mr Gough, who is 74, was told by a friend of Beryl Cook's that the artist had bought a large print of his photograph. "He said she had decided to do something on it after seeing the photograph. She didn't copy the picture but she did get the idea from it. It's quite flattering."

He said it was one of his favourite photographs, and won the Midlands



The famous picture of Andy Wade



Beryl Cook's Ladies' Night painting

News Picture of the Year award for 1975.

He remembers it being quite a daunting job to work on but says that was probably part of the appeal.

"When we took that picture there were just us two blokes there among all those women, and it got a bit frisky. I was quite glad to get out of there with all my clothes on. There are some great expressions on the faces of the women," he said. Mr Wade died on January 18. Ladies' Night, which was released in 1980, was one of Cook's most instantly recognisable images, capturing the the astonishment and

hilarity of the moment a male stripper reveals all. The artist was adept at capturing moments in time, creating a picture postcard quality that made her a favourite for calendars and posters.

Cook died in 2008 at the age of 81. Once described by Victoria Wood as 'Rubens with jokes', Cook portrayed a world of innocent naughtiness that divided critics but established her as a firm favourite with the public, who never tired of the cards and reproductions of her work. Her paintings featured on postage stamps along with Renoir and Rodin but never in the Tate or the National galleries.



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NEWS

Chapel searches for new organist

A CHAPEL has launched an appeal to find a new organist to maintain a long standing Easter tradition.

Bethel Chapel in Lye, has marked the Christian festival with its own ceremony for six decades.

'The Crucifixion,' a cantata by Sir John Stainer, has regularly been performed on Good Friday in the presence of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor of Dudley since the 1940s. But the congregation has found it increasingly difficult to find an experienced organist who is available on the day.

Pastor Jill Berry said: "Classically trained organists are a dying breed and although we have a couple of people who help out at funerals and weddings they tend to play at their home church at Christmas and Easter."

Call Pastor Jill Berry on 01384 892137

Plan to end the 'postcode lottery' on IVF opportunity

PLANS have been unveiled to end the postcode lottery of IVF treatment in the West Midlands.

Health chiefs are overhauling treatments for infertility so every borough's offer is the same and helps more women become pregnant.

Changes are also intended to cut the current two-year wait for IVF treatment. The new policy proposal offers earlier clinical assessment and investigation and fertility treatment after one year where the cause is known. The minimum age for treatment would also be reduced

from 23 to 20 years old. At present clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), which commission healthcare services in different areas, each have different policies.

The CCGs involved in this consultation, which will run throughout February, are Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and West Birmingham, Birmingham CrossCity, Birmingham South Central and Solihull.

In Sandwell women can be offered two courses of IVF treatment. Under plans to bring each CCG area into line, this would be reduced to one course for each woman in Sandwell so the offer is consistent across the West Midlands.

Bosses concede people affected could have strong feelings about the proposals, so are asking for people to air their views in a consultation. Under plans, fertility treatment will also be offered to all eligible single women and same sex couples.

Andy Williams, accountable officer for Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG, said: "We are aiming to ensure that policies are fair and consistent instead of the existing 'postcode lottery' in which the service offered to women varies according to where they live."

People who want to take part in the survey can visit <http://surveymonkey.com/s/westmids-ivf>.

Firms support higher wages

MORE than two thirds of businesses in the Black Country support an increase in the minimum wage. A survey carried out by The Black Country Chamber of Commerce (BCCC) of more than 200 businesses in the region revealed that 66 per cent of manufacturing companies and 55 per cent of service sector companies favoured increasing the minimum wage in line with inflation.

The results, part of the BCCC Quarterly Economic Survey, also showed that only 18 per cent of Black Country manufacturing firms and 17 per cent of service sector companies say that the minimum wage should stay the same. The current minimum wage is £6.31 an hour for adults and £3.72 for 16 and 17-year-olds. Ninder Johal, vice president of the BCCC, said: "Demand for talent is outstripping supply so we have to be careful not to discourage people from filling vacancies."



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Filipino basketball tournament a first



Launch of the first British Filipino Tournament in Dudley

BASKETBALL players showed off their skills at the opening ceremony of a tournament being held in Dudley for the first time.

The British Filipino Association Basketball tournament officially launched at Dudley College's Evolve Campus.

A crowd of around 60 people flocked to see the tournament launch with a grand opening ceremony recently.

Four teams will battle it out over the course of the 12 week competition, with just one being crowned the overall winner.

Many of those taking part were players originally from The Philippines who live and work in the Dudley and Wolverhampton areas.

Councillor Qadar Zada, Labour councillor for the Netherton, Woodside and St Andrew's wards, was at the tournament.

He said: "This was a really big event for the Dudley area and the staff working at Evolve all said there have been an excellent turnout. It is the first time the tournament has been held here in Dudley. What I saw at the tournament launch was a demonstration of great community support."

Investment sees company expand

A DUDLEY company that played a major role in sprucing up Waterloo train station in time for the Olympic Games has invested £300,000 to launch a new manufacturing service.

Mercia Architectural, which employs 22 people at its Shaw Road factory, is the first manufacturer in the region to install the Dynamic Mach3 high pressure water jet cutting system and is already setting its sights on winning new contracts in the automotive, aerospace and high value engineering fields.

The acquisition gives the firm the ability to accurately cut a comprehensive range of materials at high speed, including composites, fiberglass, wood, plastic and even titanium.

A number of early orders have already been secured after the company impressed clients with its speed of turnaround and quality of finish.

Appeal for cat charity helpers

AN appeal has been launched to find more volunteers to help at an animal charity. Cats Protection's Stourbridge and district branch is appealing for people to help with its cat rehoming service.

Other help is needed with book-keeping, home visiting and public relations in the area.

Branch member Deborah Cox said: "Volunteering for Cats Protection is a fun and rewarding experience, whether you have a skill that would benefit the charity or would like to develop new skills by taking on a fresh challenge."

"Our volunteers gain a great deal of satisfaction helping cats get a second chance in life."

Call 0844 884 8520 or email info@stourbridgecats.org.uk for details.

Serious and slimline Lenny wins award



It's a snarling, slimline Lenny Henry in the play *Fences*

LENNY Henry has revealed that he has shed three stone after being diagnosed with diabetes as he picked up a prestigious acting award.

The 55-year-old Dudley-born comic, turned serious actor, now eats sugar-free food and has started Ashtanga yoga to battle the disease that cost his late mother both her legs.

He said: "I'm a bit diabetic, so I was put on a very strict diet. I've lost between two-and-a-half and three stone. I was big. It's lots of greens, lots of juice and lots of walking. Swimming is good."

"You've got to eat no sugar and drink hardly any alcohol... all the stuff you like. You can't Hobnob your way through the day."

Speaking at the Critics' Circle Theatre Awards, where he won the best actor for his role in August Wilson's American drama *Fences*, Lenny revealed how his mother Winifred suffered from diabetes for seven years and had a double leg amputation before she died in 1998.

Fences won rave reviews when the play toured the UK after opening at the Theatre Royal, Bath, and later transferred to the Duchess Theatre in London.

Charity's aim is to help young musicians

A CHARITY named after a Bewdley woman has been set up in her memory to inspire talented young musicians and artists across Wyre Forest and Worcestershire.

The Helen Rachael Mackness Charitable Trust aims to promote the education of budding young local musicians and artists by using a new £1.3 million pot to award individual grants, scholarships and funding to local schools and colleges for education programmes.

Established by a group of

local trustees, who include Maynard Burton, partner and chairman at Kidderminster law firm mfg Solicitors, the charity's formation followed a request in the 87-year-old's will after her death in 2010.

Miss Mackness, who left her whole estate to various charities with the balance being distributed in accordance with the trust, was a trained musician and related to the British 18th century landscape and watercolour painter, Julius Caesar Ibbetson.

Patients concerned over bus route to health centre

ELDERLY and infirm patients fear they may struggle to reach a new £8.5 million medical centre due to inadequate public transport links.

The Foster, Rastrick and Company plant, in Stourbridge, is being transformed into a modern surgery as the new location for the Worcester Street Surgery.

Work to convert the derelict factory into an £8.5 million health centre, serving 26,000 patients, began in October last year.

The restoration of the Grade II listed foundry

building, in Lowndes Road, is on track to be completed in the spring.

However concerns have been raised with ward councillors that the health practice is not positioned on an existing bus route.

Talks

The current site, in Worcester Street, has a bus stop nearby but officials have said the layout of the new centre's car park would not allow for buses to turn around.

Talks have been held with the practice managers, Dudley Council and public transport body Centro but they have failed to find a solution.

Ward councillor Barbara Sykes said it was important that a resolution was found to ensure access for all.

"If a bus goes on to the new site it can't make a complete circle. It would need to reverse," she said.

"The nearest public transport to the new surgery will be the bus stop in Envile Street and people will have to walk all the way down Lowndes Road to the surgery. It's a pretty long road especially for elderly people to walk along."

"The centre will be good when it is finished and opened but I'm surprised that this situation was not considered at the planning stage."

Head of steam for new season

GANGS of workers face a race against time to ensure the Severn Valley Railway is able to get up steam for the expected busy February half-term which always sees visitors flocking to travel on the heritage steam line between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

Currently 23 young apprentices are learning valuable skills of track maintenance as work is carried out to replace worn-out parts of the 16-mile long line.

They have been working under the guidance of Steve Brown, a 65-year-old retired project engineer who worked in the automotive supply industry.

They have been replacing track close to the railway's Kidderminster station.

Steve, a senior supervisor for the Bewdley Permanent Way Group of volunteers, said: "We have been replacing two panels of worn-out track beneath Aggborough footbridge."

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NEWS

Tiger talk is a bostin' good idea at the zoo



Dudley Zoo assistant curator Richard Brown teaches Joao the Sumatran Tiger some of the local lingo

OWAMYA, Joao? Keepers at Dudley Zoo are brushing up on their Black Country dialect by practising the local lingo on their new Sumatran tiger.

The 22-month-old big cat transferred from Krefeld Zoo in Germany 11 weeks ago, and is gradually adapting from his native German to Black Country 'spake'.

In readiness for July 14's Black Country Day, assistant curator, Richard Brown - a Tipton lad - is going

over familiar phrases with Joao. Among them is 'ere's yer fittle', which translates as 'here's your lunch', and we'm a goin wum' which is 'we're off home'.

The zoo's head of media and communications Jill Hitchman said: "As the Black Country's favourite zoo, Dudley's keen to support local events highlighting the area. Since the zoo opened in 1937 we have featured in the photo albums of most families in the Black Country throughout those seven decades."

She added: "Joao is now learning 'ere's yer fittle' and 'tara a bit, we'm a goin wum' from big cat keepers,

which translates as 'here's your lunch' and 'bye for now, we're off home'. He'll be pretty much used to the local language come summer!" Staff will be spreading the word with Keeper For a Day experiences throughout July, which sees animal fans from across the world shadowing personnel at the zoo.

Jill said: "Staff will be introducing folk from across the country and indeed, overseas visitors, to a little local dialect and teaching them 'owamya' and 'tara fer now' as they arrive and leave the site. It's all good fun but it's also a chance to let people know about the Black Country, its strong community, characters and identity."

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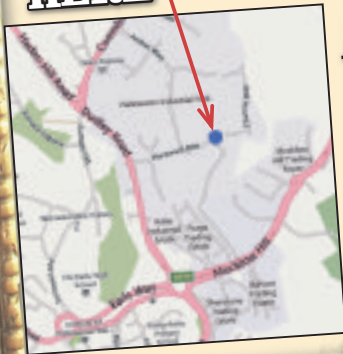


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NEWS

NEWS
in brief

Forum to hand out £15k grant

GRANTS totalling more than £15,000 have been made to groups in the Halesowen area from a local community forum.

Dudley Council's Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South Community Forum has given the cash to five organisations.

Halas Homes gets £5,000 towards an extension to a building to provide more space for training.

'Ups and Downs' has received £4,595 for play equipment and towards the cost of trips for a group providing support to families with children who have Downs Syndrome. Halesowen Age Concern won £2,500 for a marquee and fund-raising events. And £2,074 has gone to Halesowen in Bloom towards maintaining planters.

Marque extends stay at Merry Hill

MOTOR company MG is to have a mini dealership within the Merry Hill shopping centre throughout this year.

The historic marque is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2014 and will have its new MG3 and the MG6 on show.

It follows a successful two-month pre-Christmas run.

The four-car display will feature the GT fastback and Magnette sports saloon variants of the cars.

Potential buyers will also be able to talk to fully trained MG sales executives from the Longbridge factory, where they are assembled.

Tribunal claims won by sacked factory workers

THREE men sacked from a chicken factory after being accused of a cash-for-jobs scam have won tribunal claims for unfair dismissal.

Baljit Johal, Mukesh Kumar and Balwinder Jackhu all worked at the 2 Sisters Food Group chicken processing site in Dial Lane, West Bromwich.

They were dismissed in March after an investigation into anonymous allegations that they had sold jobs to agency staff for £500. The three men had denied ever selling positions at the company, which produces food for household names.

They have now won their cases for unfair dismissal following a hearing at Birmingham Employment Tribunal. The three were claiming £30,000 each. Compensation will be decided at another hearing in March.

Tribunal judge Mr David Dimbylow ruled the factory workers had been unfairly dismissed after criticising the firm's investigation into the anonymous allegations.

Avi Pawar, the director of Aspect Law, which represented Mr Johal and Mr Kumar, said after the judgement: "They are glad that justice has finally been done."

Knife woman is spared jail

A 20-year-old woman has been spared jail after admitting stabbing her ex-boyfriend following a drunken argument.

Sacha Taylor, of Nimmings Road, Halesowen, used a kitchen knife to slash at her former boyfriend Steven Tanner, causing a two-inch gash on his forearm.

Recorder Stephen Lineham QC told Wolverhampton Crown Court the support offered to Taylor by her family is why he gave her a two-year community order instead of sending her to prison.

Mr Justin Jarmola, prosecuting, said the couple had both been drinking when the argument took place. He said: "She picked up the kitchen knife after he struck her a number of times and she cut him on the forearm and the finger."

She caused a two inch long and three millimetre deep cut on his forearm and a two millimetre cut on his finger.

Mr Jas Mann, defending, said: "There was provocation in the form of being struck a number of times. She used excessive self defence. There is substantial remorse."

Taylor was given a two-year supervision order with a requirement to take part in the Thinking Skills programme.

Gang

The tribunal had previously heard claims the night shift at the factory was 'run like a gang' by supervisor Mr Johal, from Stanley Road, West Bromwich, shift manager Mr Kumar, from Helming Drive, Wolverhampton and trainer Mr Jackhu, from Cocksheds Lane, Halesowen.

Mrs Sarah George, representing 2 Sisters had alleged the men treated favoured workers 'like family' and bullied others.

She alleged they shared money paid by vulnerable workers on the promise of jobs that they did not have the power to provide. She alleged their 'victims' were too scared to complain. It was claimed at the hearing that the police did not take any action because no one was prepared to be identified.

The three men always denied the allegations and claimed to have been targeted for choosing to work during a strike and allege the company was guided by 'false accusations' which led to their dismissal. It was also heard that more than 240 employees signed a petition supporting the men.

Folk musician on home turf



Mark Bloomer is half of acclaimed folk duo Broom Bezzums

A MUSICIAN from Halesowen who has established himself as part of Germany's best known English folk band is heading home for a series of concerts including one near home turf in the Black Country.

Mark Bloomer is one half of Broom Bezzums along with Andrew Cadie and will be playing a Valentine's Day concert at the Woodman Folk Club in Kingswinford, Dudley, as part of a 14 date tour.

After busking their way around Europe the duo have become one of the most established names on the acoustic scene in Germany with their mix of traditional and Celtic influenced music. BB will also be featuring award-winning singer/songwriter Katie Doherty who hails from Newcastle.

Broom Bezzums will be playing The Woodman, Ashwood Marina, Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford, on February 14, at 8pm. Tickets are £8 or £7 for members. Call 01384 560462 or visit the www.woodmanfolk.co.uk website.

The three musicians will also be playing Marris Bar in Worcester on February 17. Tickets are £10 on the door. The show begins at 8pm.

Anger at hospital parking price hike

PATIENT groups and councillors have described proposals to increase parking charges at hospitals in Sandwell 'ridiculous'.

The proposals to change car parking costs at hospitals managed by Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS trust would see a hike in the cost of concessions £2 up to £2.50 at some of their sites.

The visitor tariff for every band of charges at Sandwell and City hospital sites would increase by 10p.

Brian Childs, a member of Sandwell patient group, Upper GI Blues and regular visitor to the trust's hospital sites, said: "The proposed increase in charges are absolutely ridiculous, they are already too high as it is."

Grabbing

"It's just grabbing money of people to pay for shortfalls in their budget."

"I can't see how they are spending money on parking services, so it's got to be going to fund something else."

"It's completely unfair to charge patients who sometimes have to wait a long time to see their consultant."

Visitors who stay for up to six hours at Rowley Regis Hospital would see fees jump from £2 to £2.50.

The fees for up to 24 hours will stay at £5 at the Moor Street facility.

Despite the increase, chiefs at the trust are anticipating losing £10,000 on parking fees this year.

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- Visit to Villa San Donnino local producer of Balsamic vinegar with tasting
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Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

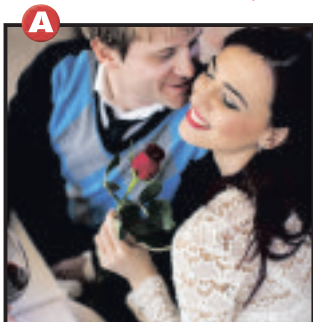
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sails Brittany Ferries to
look at destinations on
the French Atlantic coast

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Arriving refreshed in one of their Norman or Brittany ports, a vast array of holiday choices opens up. But one may well be tempted to linger in St Malo with its many restaurants or Caen, just a short drive from the ferry terminal, which is a bustling student city with medieval streets and William of Normandy's impressive castle, partly built by the British and free to explore. The remarkable tapestry at the nearby town of Bayeux tells you about 1066 and all that.

Visit the D-Day beaches or turn north for the enchanting fishing port of Honfleur, or maybe you prefer to follow the sun to the south.

Whether heading west into Celtic Brittany, the French equivalent of Cornwall, or south-west to the Loire Valley and long sandy Atlantic beaches of the Vendee and Poitou-Charentes — do take time to stop off at the magical Mont St Michel, with its ancient abbey on an island linked to the mainland by a causeway, or the castle at Fougere, one of the finest fortresses in Europe.

The city of Nantes is a must for steampunk fans because of the Les Machines de l'île where you can clamber aboard a massive mechanical elephant that walks around the former dockyards. The fantasy engineering



Cruise to France on Brittany Ferries ships like the Normandie

is inspired by science fiction pioneer Jules Verne, a son of Nantes. It's not worth the extra fee to see the workshops but you pay separately for the elephant and ocean themed carousel.

The resorts of the Vendee beckon you to a land of shellfish and wine, or carry on to the A-list Ile de Re, where France's VIPs spend their holidays on a pretty island reached by a vertigo-inducing toll bridge. Next is the harbour city of La Rochelle, where you can take boat trips to the tiny Ile d'Aix and circumnavigate Fort Boyard, or head into the marshes to the walled town of Brouage and imagine yourself as one of the musketeers.

Royan is a modern resort at the mouth of the Gironde estuary in easy

reach of Roman Saintes and Cognac with its brandy houses. Don't miss the beautiful city of Bordeaux, synonymous with fine wines.

Brittany Ferries operates the longer routes from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth to western France saving miles of unnecessary and costly driving. Travel overnight by luxury cruise-ferry in the comfort of your own cabin with en-suite facilities or be whisked across the channel in as little as three hours. We travelled outwards from Portsmouth to Cherbourg and returned from Caen to Portsmouth. Fares start from £79 one way for a car plus two passengers.

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What's On!

Boogie woogie blues and jazz

BRIT blues legends Nine Below Zero are in concert at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Friday, February 14, with special guest boogie woogie pianist Ben Waters, who was asked to play at Jools Holland's wedding.

Tickets are £13 in advance or £15 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or go to www.therobin.co.uk. Support will come from the Keith Thompson Band.

Also coming up at the Mount Pleasant venue are Drum's jive jazz specialists King Pleasure & the Biscuit Boys tonight (Thursday). On February 13 Sons Of Cream visit. This tribute group features the offspring of 60s supergroup Cream - Kofi Baker (son of Ginger) on drums, Malcolm Bruce (son of Jack) on bass and Eric Clapton's nephew Will Johns on guitar.

Lemmy's illness halts Motorhead

BRITISH rockers Motorhead have had to cancel their rescheduled Wolverhampton gig because of singer and bassist Lemmy's health issues. The concert at the Civic Hall was originally planned for November last year but was postponed until February 17 but that too has been axed as the entire spring European tour has been called off.

A spokesperson for the band said that Lemmy Kilmister had continuing health issues linked to his diabetes and had reluctantly accepted medical advice that it was too soon to tour. Refunds are available from points of purchase.

Chills and thrills of tales to haunt the Grand audiences

Hear the best of the new

THE music scene really takes off this month after the January lull with some of the best young bands and solo performers on the way to the West Midlands.

Guitar-slingers The Boxer Rebellion, with album Promises and new single Keep Moving under their belts, play Birmingham's O2 Academy tonight (Friday). Polyrythmic Oxford outfit Foals are at the Bristol Street venue on Tuesday and Manchester's The 1975, who had a hit last year with Chocolate and soon release new single Settle Down, are in concert at the O2 venue on Wednesday.

Long Way Down chart-topper Tom Odell is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday with support from Fryars and James Bay. Super-cool trio London Grammar have a gig at the O2 Academy on February 16 and have added a date at Wolverhampton Civic on June 6.



Singer-songwriter Tom Odell has a concert at Wolverhampton Civic Hall this Sunday

TWO familiar actors will be presenting a double bill of classic spine-tingling ghost stories at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

From Wednesday to Saturday, February 12-15, the theatre will be haunted by eerie tales from Charles Dickens and MR James.

Veteran actor Jack Shepherd, who was the star of TV detective show Wycliffe, will be joined by Terrence Hardiman,

who was BBC TV's The Demon Headmaster, for versions of The Signalman and Oh, Whistle and I'll Come To You, My Lad, both stories featuring terrifying ghosts. It is surely a must-see for anyone who enjoyed The Woman In Black or traditional Christmas TV ghost stories. There are nightly performances plus matinees on the Wednesday and Saturday, for those who would rather not venture into the dark after such spooky tales!

Tickets range from £11.50 to £25.50, see www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Denise Van Outen brings her one-woman 'play with music' Some Girls I Used To Know to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Wednesday. She will also be bringing the show to the Grand from February 20 to 22, after the Wolverhampton theatre stages raunchy comedy 51 Shades of Maggie from February 17 to 19.

Top choreographer Matthew Bourne's all-male



Jack Shepherd

version of Swan Lake has extended its run at Birmingham Hippodrome from last night to February 15.

David Essex has a major dramatic role in new play The Dishwashers, written by Morris Panych and directed by Nikolai Foster, at Birmingham Rep until February 15. This witty drama looks at the men who scrub and scrape in the kitchen of an up-market London restaurant, including one former financial high-flyer who used to be a customer rather than a dishwasher.

Lady Gaga will be having a ball

GLOBAL pop superstar Lady Gaga is coming to Birmingham's city centre NIA as part of her artRave: The ArtPop Ball Tour on October 15.

Tickets go on sale to the general public from 9am on Saturday, though O2 customers will get a three day headstart. Ticket prices will range from £35 to £90. See the www.livemation.co.uk website

A major music festival has also been announced for Birmingham this summer with rapper, Kanye West topping the bill at the Wireless Festival in Perry Park, which takes place between July 4 and 6. Also on the bill will be fellow Americans and chart-toppers Pharrell Williams, Bruno Mars and Drake, plus British singers Ellie Goulding and John Newman.

Swingin' songs from US legend

FROM Rags to Ritzes, a celebration of American musical songbook great Irving Berlin, will be held at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra and narration from Radio 2's Leo Green. Guest singers include Sophie Evans, who was runner-up on BBC TV's Over The Rainbow, alongside Mary Carewe, Matthew Ford and Tom Langham.

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra will also feature Berlin's music as part of their Songs for Swingin' Orchestra concert at the Symphony Hall on February 28. See www.thsh.co.uk for tickets.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 8.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Marvin Humes

The Voice UK BBC1, 7.10pm
Who knows why Kylie Minogue signed up for this slick talent search, but thank heavens she did, because together with charming Kaiser Chief Ricky Wilson, she's been the short in the arm the show needed. And it perhaps goes without saying that Tom Jones and Will.i.am continue to deliver the goods, even if the latter's "dope" lingo is wearing thin. As ever, the judges will be giving their verdict on the potential stars with the golden tonsils, while staying immobile for those who don't rock their world. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the fifth set of Blind Auditions.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **7.10** The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes are backstage for the penultimate week of blind auditions, with Kylie Minogue, Will.i.am, Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson looking to bolster their teams. **8.35** The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers list as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Gaby Roslin. **9.25** Casualty. The medics examine a teenager hurt in a mountain-bike accident – only to come across old injuries that suggest he might be a victim of abuse. Jamie decides to leave for Australia. **10.15** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield and Swansea City v Cardiff City at the Liberty Stadium. National Lottery Update. **12.00** The Football League Show. **1.20** Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.30** Film: Annie Oakley. (1935) **8.00** Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening day of the Games from Russia. **11.00** See Hear. **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** The Great British Bake Off: The Winner's Story. (R) **1.00** Film: Easy Virtue. (2008) **2.30** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the opening day of the Games in Russia. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** Live Winter Olympics. **7.00** Winter Olympics: Today at the Games. Clare Balding introduces highlights from the opening day in Russia, where the first five gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana. **8.00** Torvill & Dean: The Perfect Day. Documentary telling the story behind ice-dancing duo Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean's gold medal-winning performance at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. **9.00** Dad's Army. Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade and plumps for a ram, but catching a suitable candidate for the job proves easier said than done. (R) **9.30** Hanif Kureishi: Writers Are Trouble – A Culture Show Special. Author and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi chats to Alan Yentob about his new book, his latest film and placing his personal archive in the vaults of the British Library. **10.30** Film: My Beautiful Laundrette. (1985) Comedy drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis. **12.05** Film: The Mother. (2003) **1.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled! **8.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** Catchphrase. (R) **12.15** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **1.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.15** You've Been Framed! (R) **4.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **4.25** ITV News: Weather. **4.40** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith. (2005) **7.10** Splash! Dan Osborne, Anna Williamson, Austin Healey and Richard Whitehead perform two dives each in the second semi-final. Vernon Kay and Gabby Logan present. **8.40** Take Me Out. A disco-dancing bachelor, a stockbroker, a nanny and a student try to impress a panel of 30 single women and win a date to the Isle of Fernandos. **9.55** The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by 24 star Kiefer Sutherland, actress Emily Mortimer, actor Chris O'Dowd and comedian Kevin Bridges. Nine-time Grammy winner John Legend provides the music. **10.55** ITV News: Weather. **11.10** Film: 2 Fast 2 Furious. (2003) A disgraced cop is given a chance to redeem himself by going undercover to bring a drug trafficker to justice. Thriller sequel, with Paul Walker. **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **9.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** How I Met Your Mother. **11.25** How I Met Your Mother. **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.35** Channel 4 News. **7.00** Bigfoot Files. Mark Evans travels to Russia to investigate the story of Zana, a "wild woman" said to have been found in the 1870s and thought to be a hominid or Neanderthal. Last in the series. (R) **8.00** Walking Through History. New series. Tony Robinson embarks on a twopart exploration of industrial engineering along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, tracing the story of its chaotic construction. **9.00** Hostages. Ellen struggles to make an agonising choice between saving her husband or protecting her children, and is forced to perform emergency surgery in her own home. **10.00** Film: Source Code. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. **11.40** Film: Jackie Brown. (1997) Crime drama, starring Pam Grier. **2.25** Southland. (R) **3.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Film: An American Tail. (1986) Animated adventure, with the voice of Philip Glasser. **11.35** Film: Thunderpants. (2002) Family comedy, starring Bruce Cook. **1.15** Film: Phenomenon. (1996) Fantasy drama, starring John Travolta. **3.40** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **4.40** Film: Columbo: An Exercise in Fatality. (1974) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk and Robert Conrad. **6.40** NCIS. The team tries to find out who was responsible for sabotaging a robotic vehicle that caused the death of a Navy lieutenant and almost killed Abby. (R) **7.30** NCIS. The discovery of a dead marine intelligence officer in a motel room sets the team off on a hunt for her killer in an investigation that may lead to a terrorist cell. (R) **8.30** 5 News Weekend. **8.35** The NCIS Movie: Enemies. Feature-length episode. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father. Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. (R) **10.15** Film: Willard to Kill. (2012) Premiere detective must face up to her own troubled childhood when a serial killer develops a twisted obsession with her. Thriller, with Sarah Jane Morris and Michael Riley. **12.05** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Gibraltar: Britain in the Sun. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Han's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Han's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **BBC Four**
7.00 Wild China **8.00** Pain, Pus & Poison: The Search for Modern Medicines **9.00** Salamander **10.35** Pink Floyd: Wish You Were Here **11.35** Pink Floyd: A Delicate Sound of Thunder **ITV2**
3.30 Film: Dennis (1993) **4.55** Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) **6.50** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.00** Film: The Shawshank Redemption (1994) **11.55** The Maguluf Weekender **ITV3**
3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Vera **11.00** A Touch of Frost **Drama**
3.10 Caddae 4.40 One Foot in the Grave **6.00** All Creatures Great and Small **7.00** Young James Herriot **8.00** Last of the Summer Wine **9.00** Waking the Dead **11.25** Sharpe **E4**
4.00 Rules of Engagement **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Beverly Hills Cop (1984) **11.05** Rude Tube: Rude Zoo **Film4**
3.05 Jungle 2 Jungle (1997) **5.10** Leap Year (2010) **7.05** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Slumdog Millionaire (2008) **Danny Boyle's** Oscar-winning drama, with Dev Patel and Freida Pinto. With an introduction by Danny Boyle. **11.25** Transpotting (1996)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 9.02.14

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Derek Jacobi



Cadfael, 9pm
Dramatised from the novel of the late Ellis Peters, the 90 minute film begins with pilgrims being brought to Shrewsbury Abbey after they are suspected of being behind the discovery of a rotting corpse of an old man in a sack. Imprisoning them all within the Abbey walls, Cadfael renders the corpse down to its bones to discover the cause of murder. Among the resentful pilgrims are a couple of young thieves - Melangell (Vanity Fair's Natasha Little) and her brother Walter (Lee Ingleby).

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** The Indian Doctor. (R) **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.00 **Fake or Fortune?** Philip Mould and Bendor Grosvenor identify two works from public collections that could be by 18th-century portrait artist Thomas Gainsborough. Last in the series.

7.00 **Countryside.** A trip to the Lake District, where the show's opening titles were filmed. Matt Baker visits the beach the horses race across and Helen Skelton recreates the rock-climbing scene. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Call the Midwife.** Jenny has an eventful few days, starting with a patient who as well as having herself to worry about, is also struggling to cope with her agoraphobic mother.

9.00 **The Musketeers.** Aramis's loyalty to the Musketeer regiment is tested when he agrees to help an old friend uncover the truth behind a disastrous mission.

10.00 **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2.** Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Everton.

11.25 **Film: Brooklyn's Finest.** (2009) Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere.

1.30 Weatherview. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics. Coverage of the opening session on day two of the Games. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.30** **Film: The Gumball Rally.** (1976) **2.10** Live Winter Olympics. Further coverage of the second day from Russia. **4.30** Live Winter Olympics. Concluding coverage.

7.10 **Winter Olympics: Today at the Games.** Clare Balding introduces highlights from day two in Russia, where eight gold medals were decided in venues in Sochi and Krasnaya Polyana.

8.00 **Top Gear.** Richard Hammond gets behind the wheel of the Alfa Romeo 4C. Jeremy Clarkson puts the McLaren P1 hypercar to the test and Thor star Tom Hiddleston drives the Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 **Dragons' Den.** A couple pitch their glamorous camping business, a mother-of-four from Shropshire has a new take on the coffee bag, and one entrepreneur attempts to graffiti the Den.

10.00 **Alan Davies Apres-Ski.** A comic look at the news and action from the Winter Olympics. (R)

10.30 **Q+L.** With Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck and Sue Perkins. (R)

11.15 **Royal Cousins at War.** Part one of two. The impact the relationships between cousins Nicholas II of Russia, Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and the UK's George V had on the outbreak of the First World War. (R)

12.15 **Sign Zone: Countryside.** (R) **1.10** **Holly City.** (R) **2.10** **The Search for Alfred the Great.** (R) **3.10** This is BBC Two. **5.00** Live Winter Olympics.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. **6.10** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.25** Dino Diner. (R) **6.40** Dino Diner. (R) **6.50** **Animals.** (R) **7.00** **Animals.** (R) **7.10** **Om Nom Stories.** (R) **7.15** **Sooty.** (R) **7.30** **Scrambled.** **9.25** **Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20** **Dickinson's Real Deal.** (R) **11.15** **ITV News: Weather.** (R) **11.20** **The Unforgettable Dudley Moore.** (R) **11.50** **Inside the National Trust.** **12.50** **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries.** (R) **1.50** **Splash!** (R) **3.20** **Film: Thunderball.** (1965) **5.50** **Regional Programme: Weather.**

6.00 **ITV News: Weather.**

6.15 **Dancing on Ice.** The seven remaining stars perform to songs from 1984 as the show marks the 30th anniversary of Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean winning gold at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics. The results are at 8.30pm.

7.45 **All Star Family Fortunes.** With Olympic rowing hero Steve Redgrave and Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson.

8.30 **Dancing on Ice: The Skate Off.** Another star skater is eliminated.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge.** The men of Selfridges clamour to do their bit for the war effort.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten: Weather.**

10.15 **Birds of a Feather.** Sharon's estranged husband asks for a divorce. (R)

10.45 **Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Tony Blackburn.** (R)

11.45 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 13th round of top-flight fixtures.

12.40 **The Store.** (R) **2.40** **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **4.05** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 **The Hoobs.** (R) **6.40** **The Hoobs.** (R) **7.05** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.30** **Frasier.** (R) **7.55** **Frasier.** (R) **8.25** **The Taste.** (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** **12.30** **The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.25** **How I Met Your Mother.** **1.55** **How I Met Your Mother.** **2.25** **The Simpsons.** (R) **2.55** **The Simpsons.** (R) **3.30** **Film: Three Men and a Cradle.** (1987) **5.30** **Deal or No Deal.**

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** Jamie Oliver creates a Sunday roast and curly fusion. Jimmy Doherty builds a DIY smoker and former Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles prepares his favourite dish - a New York-style pizza. (R)

8.00 **Scandinavia.** In Denmark, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall cooks with Rene Redzepi, owner of the award-winning restaurant Noma, and meets actor Søren Malling, star of The Killing and Borgen.

9.00 **Babylon.** Comedy drama, directed by Danny Boyle. Violence erupts across London as the Met chief tries to revamp the force's public image. Starring James Nesbitt.

10.35 **Film: The Bank Job.** (2008) A London bank robber accidentally steals top-secret files which the government and security services want buried. Fact-based thriller, starring Jason Statham and Saffron Burrows.

12.40 **Film: Tigerland.** (2000) **2.20** **Boss.** **3.20** **Abductees.** (R) **3.30** **Eating for Two.** (R) **3.35** **Location, Location, Location.** (R) **4.35** **Supernanny US.** (R) **5.15** **River Cottage Babies.** (R) **5.30** **Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **Peppa Pig.** **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **6.15** **Fill and the Flowerpots.** (R) **6.25** **Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.50** **The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50** **Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.00** **Milkshake! Top Box.** (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25** **Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35** **Milkshake! Monkey.** (R) **7.40** **City of Friends.** (R) **7.55** **Little Princess.** (R) **8.05** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20** **Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.35** **Mia.** (R) **8.45** **Rupert Bear.** (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15** **Jelly Jam.** (R) **9.30** **LazyTown.** (R) **10.00** **Power Rangers Super Samurai.** (R) **10.35** **Power Rangers Megaforce.** (R) **11.10** **The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **12.05** **Ice Road Truckers.** (R) **1.05** **Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild.** (R) **2.05** **Police Interceptors.** (R) **3.10** **Film: Daddy Day Camp.** (2007) **4.50** **Film: Land of the Lost.** (2009)

6.45 **Film: Planet of the Apes.** (2001) An astronaut crash-lands on a strange planet ruled by intelligent apes, who capture and enslave him. Tim Burton's sci-fi remake, starring Mark Wahlberg.

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Film: The Expendables.** (2010) A mercenary team is double-crossed while on a mission to kill a South American dictator. Action thriller, directed by and starring Sylvester Stallone.

10.55 **Film: Full Metal Jacket.** (1987) Vietnam War drama, starring Matthew Modine.

1.15 **SuperCasino.** **3.10** **Ultimate Emergency Bikers.** (R) **4.00** **Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.20** **Make It Big.** (R) **4.45** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.25** **The Funky Valley Show.** (R) **5.40** **Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **Great Movie Mistakes** **7.05** **Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes** **7.35** **The Voice UK** **9.00** **Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00** **Family Guy** **10.45** **Uncle**

BBC Four
7.00 **Francesco's Italy Top to Toe** **8.00** **Wainwright: The Man Who Loved the Lakes** **9.00** **Space Shuttle: The Final Mission** **10.00** **The Sky at Night** **10.30** **Film: Tomboy** (2011) **11.50** **Arena: The Everly Brothers**

ITV2
2.40 **Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas** (2000) **4.25** **Film: Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties** (2006) **6.00** **Film: Rumor Has It** (2005) **8.00** **Best of You've Been Framed!** **9.00** **The Magical Weekender** **10.00** **Film: Bridget Jones's Diary** (2001)

ITV3
2.50 **Agatha Christie's Marple** **4.55** **Lewis** **6.55** **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **9.00** **The Best of the Royal Variety** **10.00** **Best of You've Been Framed!** **9.00** **The Magical Weekender** **10.00** **Film: Bridget Jones's Diary** (2001)

ITV4
2.30 **Catherine Cookson's The Moth** **5.30** **A Bit of a Do** **6.40** **Monarch of the Glen** **7.50** **Lovejoy** **9.00** **Cadfael** **10.30** **Jonathan Creek** **11.30** **A Bit of a Do**

E4
4.00 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD** **5.00** **The Tomorrow People** **6.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief** (2010) **10.25** **Film: The Running Man** (1987)

Film4
3.20 **The Towering Inferno** (1974) **6.25** **A Knight's Tale** (2011) **9.00** **Black Swan** (2010) **11.05** **Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay** (2008)

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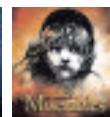
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Death Race, Channel 5, 11pm

Jensen Ames is framed for the murder of his wife and sent to Terminal Island Prison, a facility that broadcasts the highly profitable Death Race, a high-octane event where convicts battle to the death in customised cars. When a popular driver dies, crooked prison warden Hennessey persuades Ames to take his place, claiming he will be released if he is victorious. Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham and Joan Allen. (2008)

TUESDAY

The Hoax, BBC1, 11.35pm

Drama set in the 1970s, based on the true story of Clifford Irving, a struggling author who managed to convince a publisher that business magnate Howard Hughes had personally hired him as a biographer. Banking on the reclusive billionaire being too publicly shy to contradict his claims, Irving offered the rights to the book for \$1million. But keeping up the deception demanded an ever more complex web of lies. With Richard Gere and Marcia Gay Harden. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Dangerous Attraction, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman is driven into seclusion out of fear of a stalker, but resolves to fight back when he threatens those closest to her. Thriller, with Amanda Righetti and Catherine Hicks. (2012)



Death Race, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

I Love You Phillip Morris, Channel 4, 12.05am

A gay conman keeps his criminal career and his sexuality a secret from his family, until he ends up in prison for fraud. While serving his sentence, he falls madly in love with a fellow convict and becomes determined to secure their future together – even if it involves a great deal of criminal activity and several prison breaks. Fact-based romantic comedy drama, with Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor. (2009)

THURSDAY

Like Mother, Like Daughter, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A woman searching for her missing daughter receives help from a professor – but does not realise he murdered her. Thriller, starring Michelle Stafford. (2007)

FRIDAY

Before Sunrise, BBC2, 11.05pm

American tourist Jesse and French student Celine meet by chance on a train travelling to Vienna. The two strangers form a close connection almost instantly, and spend the day together in the city, discussing their hopes and dreams. However, their romance seems likely to only last a day, as Jesse is due to fly back home. Richard Linklater's romantic drama, starring Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy. (1995)

Pick of the Week

Visionary Liz fails to see the upcoming trouble

Director Danny Boyle won critical acclaim for movies such as *Trainspotting* and *28 Days Later*, an Oscar for *Slumdog Millionaire*, and unofficial national treasure status for overseeing the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony.

But in the unlikely event that he still feels a little underappreciated, maybe he should listen to what Brit Marling has to say about him.

The actress, whose credits include *The East* and *Arbitrage*, gushes: "Danny, you feel, has the kind of curious mind and unstoppable heart that are capable of anything – exploring a distant galaxy and building a new world from scratch there for instance."

"So it's lucky for us he chose to be a storyteller in a time where we need them so desperately – to make sense of the world we are living in and how to navigate it."

Given that glowing endorsement, it's no surprise that Marling signed on for Boyle's latest project, police comedy-drama *Babylon*.

Written by Peep Show and Fresh Meat veterans Sam Bain and Jesse

Armstrong (Marling has high praise for them as well – "such great writers it's borderline dangerous"), it boasts James Nesbitt at the head of an impressive cast as Chief Constable Richard Miller, who realises that the London police force could do with a bit of a public image revamp.

And he thinks American new-media visionary Liz Garvey (Marling) is just the woman to do it. She believes that in an era of rolling news, social media and members of the public potentially filming everything on their phones, it's more important than ever for the cops to be open and transparent, an idea that Marling found intriguing.

"Danny and I spoke on the phone and I loved how he saw the story developing, and the questions he wanted to ask about how technology and the transparency it creates is changing all of our lives. How does law enforcement change when a criminal is using Twitter or Instagram? What's the future of the public's involvement in law enforcement as a result?"

And how do you create a career girl that isn't a typical ball-buster but is multi-faceted?"

Luckily, she thinks the writers cracked it. "I think [Liz] is a very interesting person, because she's been successful very young, and she's used to getting her way and things moving quickly. And I think she suddenly moves into this new job and it's not quite what she expected, and there's all sorts of political intrigue, and certain people who don't want her there, and she realises that changing things is going to be much more difficult than she thought."

It's not just her new colleagues putting her theories to the test though, as London is rocked by outbreaks of violence. As visions of modern Britain go, it may not be as uplifting as the Queen jumping out of a plane with James Bond, but it hasn't put American star Marling off.

She's as enthusiastic about her co-stars (including Jill Halfpenny, Paterson Joseph, Bertie Carvel and Adam Deacon) and the city itself as she is about Boyle.

"I think I'm turning into something of an addict. I just want to be in London all the time. I'll just come over here to make anything people will hire me for."



Brit Marling stars in *Babylon*, Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring, Channel 5, 9pm

What a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago, Jim Davidson was fending off police allegations, but he's won so much public favour since then that he was recently crowned winner of the latest edition of *Celebrity Big Brother*. While he might have had his fair share of arguments in the house, what you see is definitely what you get with Jim – an opinionated, honest man with whom you'll always know where you stand. This profile of the comedian charts his rise to fame after appearing on talent show *New Faces* in 1976, before going on to become a household name hosting BBC favourites *Big Break* and *The Generation Game*.

TUESDAY

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris's Final Answer, ITV, 8pm

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? is such a TV institution, it's arguably launched a few quiz questions of its own, including "who was the first person to win a million?" (Answer: future Egghead Judith Keppel.) But which contestants and moments stand out for host Chris Tarrant? Well, we're about to find out, as following the two celebrity specials that brought down the curtain on the hugely successful series, he looks back over nearly 16 years of *'Millionaire'*. As you'd expect Charles Ingram, the so-called 'Coughing Major', who was accused of cheating his way to the top prize, features – which should also remind us that

at its height, WWTBAM was so popular, even a documentary about Ingram was watched by an impressive 17 million viewers.

Inside the Animal Mind, BBC2, 9pm

Here's a bit of good news for anyone who saw school or the office primarily as a place to meet your friends and have a laugh – the most intelligent animals on the planet are also the most social. In the last in this fascinating series, Chris Packham finds out why that is by studying one of the cleverest animals of all – the dolphin. He joins them for a swim, explores their language and also sees how they can recognise themselves in the mirror, suggesting they don't all look alike after all. Chris also learns more about how elephants mourn their dead, and why just because animals are social, it doesn't mean they all get along, as chimps can be more than a little two-faced.

WEDNESDAY

Line of Duty, BBC2, 9pm

Fans of this series could be forgiven for thinking it was a one-hit wonder – it's almost two years since the first run introduced viewers to straight-arrow cop Steve Arnott and his colleagues. But series writer and creator Jed Mercurio was clearly taking his time in crafting what promises to be a nail-biting follow-up. This time, Arnott and co will be

investigating DI Lindsay Denton (Keeley Hawes), who is the sole survivor of a police convoy ambushed while escorting a protected witness. Arnott immediately suspect she tipped the perpetrators off – but proving it may be difficult. Martin Compston, Vicky McClure and Adrian Dunbar are among those returning to the drama, while Call the Midwife's Jessica Raine joins the cast as a rookie detective constable.

Suspects

Channel 5, 10pm

What separates this from all the other procedural offerings out there is the fact it's shot in a fly-on-the-wall documentary style. The cast, which includes Fay Ripley (Cold Feet), Damien Molony (Ripper Street) and Clare-Hope Ashitey (Children of Men), created their own dialogue based on a detailed plot description. Set in London, each episode is a self-contained story beginning with a news report. We then follow the three detectives as they investigate the case. The series opens with the abduction of two-year-old Hope Wilkins. Her dysfunctional family are initially marked as suspects, until a convicted child killer is connected to the case.



Jim Davidson: At Least I'm Not Boring, Monday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Kidnapping of Shergar, Channel 5, 8pm

The mystery of Lord Lucan's disappearance in 1974, and the fate of champion racehorse Shergar have captured the public's imagination for decades. A few months after the former case was addressed in an ITV drama, we now get this equine detective story. The 1981 Derby winner was kidnapped from his home at County Kildare's Ballymany Stud in February 1983 by a masked gang. They held staff at gunpoint and Shergar was taken away in a horse trailer and never seen again. Here film-makers chat to key witnesses about the theft, and paint a picture of one of the most audacious thefts in history.

FRIDAY

Student Nurses: Bedpans and Bandages, ITV, 8pm

Across the country, a new generation of nurses are training up to take on the responsibility of a nation's health and well-being. It's a lot of pressure, and with ever-greater demands since the early days of the NHS, it's harder to qualify now than ever before. So this documentary will make for very interesting viewing indeed, as cameras follow trainee nurses in Birmingham and Manchester, showing the challenges they face on a daily basis as they juggle academic study with their personal life and work on the wards. In the first instalment, 24-year-old student Alistair discusses being one of a growing number of men taking up a career in nursing, while 21-year-old Helen nears the end of her three-year degree to become a children's nurse.

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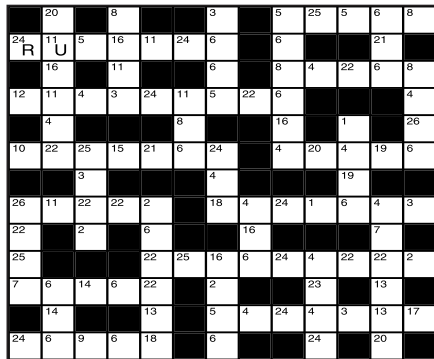
Puzzler

Brain Gym

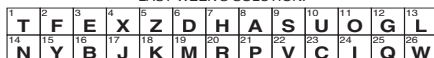
No.259

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Amend list and take down when corrected (9)
8. Some very expensive kind of whisky (3)
9. Give hand signals? (11)
11. Having arrived to stage the show (7)
12. An advance, we hear, without friendly support (5)
13. Bird noises ruin the speech (6)
15. Establish the limits of French judicial punishment (6)
17. Mishandles ear-pieces (5)
18. Unfriendly crowd before the prophet returns (7)
20. Fresh confirmation about secure policy (11)
22. Begone! I must be seen inside (3)
23. A startling revelation for one who wakes up (3-6)

Down

2. Passion shown in their exasperation (3)
3. Nearly everything I have is charged with electricity (5)
4. Mocks at relative in back-street (6)
5. Come from a wild manatee (7)
6. You'll find more point in giving fore-warning (11)
7. One who gives in easily won't manage to do this (9)
10. Did the Greeks regard it as a capital investment? (5,2,4)
11. Kind of ice slippers for beasts of burden (4-5)
14. Extract from a book in which a fool is taken in by a young attendant (7)
16. Unsullied, but almost subject to punishment (6)
19. Expose this kind of cartoon (5)
21. This hint would be about right to produce a remedy (3)



Quick Clues:

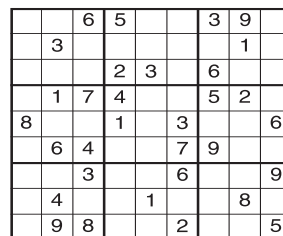
Across

1. Loss of power of action (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Cast down (11)
11. Kitchen sideboard (7)
12. Foreign (5)
13. Come back (6)
15. Ebb (6)
17. Rank (5)
18. Mean (7)
20. Bright (11)
22. In error (3)
23. Without stopping (9)

Down

2. Melody (3)
3. Water-lily (5)
4. Flight of steps (6)
5. Recover (7)
6. Thoughtful (11)
7. Deceitful (9)
10. Contingency (11)
11. Guidance (9)
14. Favour (7)
16. Wan (6)
19. Banish (5)
21. Nothing (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	4	1	9	1	2	3	7	1	5
7	1	2	4	6	5	9	8	3	
5	8	3	7	9	1	4	6	2	
1	7	5	2	3	8	6	9	4	
9	2	4	5	7	6	1	3	8	
8	3	6	1	4	9	2	5	7	
2	9	8	3	1	4	5	7	6	
4	5	1	6	8	7	3	2	9	
3	6	7	9	5	2	8	4	1	

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Arable; 8 Dotage; 10 Strange; 11 Solid; 12 Gait; 13 Avoid; 17 Cross; 18 Scar; 22 Edict; 23 Fortune; 24 Slaves; 25 Sparta. Down: 1 Passage; 2 Hair-pin; 3 Plane; 4 Corsair; 5 Sally; 6 Wends; 9 Leaves off; 14 Brother; 15 Acquire; 16 Arsenal; 19 Beast; 20 Vicar; 21 Crops. QUICK - Across: 7 Travel; 8 Barter; 10 Mariner; 11 Naive; 12 Note; 13 Inter; 17 Tepid; 18 Whet; 22 Title; 23 Attempt; 24 Grieve; 25 Recent. Down: 1 Stamina; 2 Narrate; 3 Meant; 4 Painter; 5 Attic; 6 Order; 9 Principal; 14 Deceive; 15 Whimper; 16 Statute; 19 Stage; 20 Strip; 21 Strew.



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WEOLEY CASTLE, Barnes Hill £975 pcm - Fees
A huge detached house close to Newman University. This property features 2 large reception rooms, modern kitchen, utility area the back of the garage, 4 big double bedrooms, shower room, separate toilet, huge long garden with a summer house, driveway for 2/3 cars. Benefits also include double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Century Way £750 pcm - Fees
A stunning end terrace townhouse on a new build estate. This 4 bedroomed property consists of a spacious lounge with patio doors leading into the rear garden, fitted kitchen, guest WC, master bedroom with ensuite, family bathroom with shower, small rear garden, garage and driveway parking. EPC: C



OLDBURY, Pel Crescent £650 pcm - Fees
A wonderfully presented modern end terrace property featuring: spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms; master bedroom with ensuite. Downstairs W.C. gas central heating, double glazed with driveway parking for 2 cars. Available now. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Dog kennel Lane £650 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished detached bungalow in superb central Halesowen location comprising of: gas central heating, living room/dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, 2 bedrooms bathroom with shower, front & rear gardens, garage and driveway. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road £650 pcm - Fees
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £625 pcm - Fees
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Rookery £625 pcm - Fees
Set in a lovely cul-de-sac and a highly sought after location. This 2 bedroom house features a modern fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances, great size lounge, double glazing, gas central heating, house bathroom with shower, driveway parking for 2 cars and a large rear garden. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Castle Close £595 pcm - Fees
A newly modernised unfurnished semi detached house in a sought after location briefly featuring 3 bedrooms, brand new fitted dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower. Benefits also include garage and driveway parking, rear garden. Cul-de-sac location. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Alexandra Road £595 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising: lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, garage and driveway parking, rear garden. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Middlefield Gardens £595 pcm - Fees
First floor apartment in Hurst Green. Set within well maintained gardens, this apartment features a large lounge, 2 double and 1 single bedroom, fitted kitchen with appliances, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, parking area and communal gardens. Available now. EPC: TBC



NEW
HALESOWEN, Regent Close £550 pcm - Fees
A modern intermediate town house in the centre of Halesowen. The property has the benefit of a fitted dining kitchen, spacious lounge with patio doors leading to the rear garden, 2 double bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The blocked paved driveway to the front offers parking for 2 vehicles, and the property also has gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: C



NEW
HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street £525 pcm - Fees
Set in this quiet residential area close to Blacketh Town Centre is this lovely modern mid-terrace home featuring lounge, fitted kitchen with gas oven/hob, 1 double & 1 large single bedroom, shower room, gas central heating, rear garden and parking for 2 cars. Unfurnished. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Peckingham Street £525 pcm - Fees
Wonderfully refurbished with original features maintained, 2 apartments immediately available with fantastic convenience centre of town. Ring us now to view these lovely light, airy flats, one with 2 large bay windows. Each has modern kitchen with new appliances and useful utility room. With 2 double bedrooms and 2 bathrooms these are must see exceptional apartments. EPC: TBC



NEW
HALESOWEN, Hope Street £500 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished semi detached house in a popular residential area. This lovely house features 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, bathroom with shower. Benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden, driveway parking. Additional fees will apply. EPC: D



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £495 pcm - Fees
A lovely modern ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens, internal viewing recommended. EPC: TBC



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street £495 pcm - Fees
A wonderfully unfurnished or part furnished to suit 2nd floor flat within walking distance to Old Hill shops and train station. This property comprises of a light and airy living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 double bedrooms, and bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, allocated parking. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Masfield Rise £450 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat, in a well sought after location. A short walk from Halesowen and on a major bus route, this apartment features 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen, lounge, bathroom with shower, double glazing, electric heating, garage on-block, rear garden. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Richmond Court £450 pcm - Fees
A modern furnished ground floor 1 bedroom flat set within a quiet location and close to shops and Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely apartment features a fitted kitchen, spacious living room, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal gardens. Available immediately. EPC: TBC



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens £435 pcm - Fees
A fantastic 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment which has just been fully refurbished to a high standard. Large dual aspect lounge, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, electric heating, allocated parking. This property is ready to go! EPC: C



LYE, High Street £425 pcm - Fees
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This large and spacious 1st floor apartment has a lovely lounge with a feature bay window, 2 good size bedrooms, new bathroom suite but no shower, modern and contemporary kitchen with oven and hob, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street £425 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished maisonette which has been fully refurbished and is close to local shops and bus links. This lovely flat features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, shower room, parking space. EPC: D

Property

Extended detached has lots of potential



A MUCH-extended detached house, 54 Belmont Road, Penn is in need of some refurbishment but has considerable potential.

It is for sale through Jackson Lile & Close at £180,000.

The house has a reception hall, cloakroom, dining room/study and extended lounge.

It also has an extended L-shaped breakfast room/kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, L-shaped loft room, gardens and garage.

For more information contact Jackson Lile & Close on 01902 712812 or visit the website www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk

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EPC E



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Manson Drive, Cradley Heath



EPC C

£200,000

A four bedroom modern detached house comprising ground floor lounge, separate dining room, kitchen/diner, utility and VWC. Halesowen.

Queens Drive, Rowley Regis



Awaiting EPC

£190,000

A traditional detached house briefly comprising kitchen breakfast room, conservatory and three bedrooms. Halesowen.

Green Lane, Halesowen



Awaiting EPC

£85,000

This traditional mid terraced property offers the following accommodation lounge, second reception room, three bedrooms and rear garden.

Foredraft Street, Halesowen



EPC D

£125,000

This three bedroom property situated in an established residential area with good amenities. Comprises lounge/diner and garage. Halesowen.

Public Notice



EPC D

£85,000

28 CENTRAL AVENUE, ROWLEY REGIS, B65 8BA.

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £86,500. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agents before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Public Notice



EPC D

£85,000

3 CLEMENT ROAD, HALESOWEN, B62 9LR.

We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £80,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Sovereign Drive, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £230,000

Detached four bedroom property comprises lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility, downstairs WC and master bedroom with en-suite.

Himley Avenue, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £230,000

An extended detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, two reception rooms, study area and family bathroom.

Paganel Drive, Dudley



EPC E

Offers Over £185,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising two reception rooms, kitchen/diner, sun room, family bathroom and rear garden.

View Drive, Dudley



EPC E

Offers Over £170,000

Detached three bedroom property comprising downstairs WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and garage.

Gordon Drive, Tipton



EPC C

Offers Over £150,000

Semi detached four bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, family bathroom and rear garden.

Buffery Road, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £120,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, garden, driveway and garage.

Newick Street, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £110,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, family bathroom, rear garden, driveway and garage.

Leasowe Road, Tipton



EPC D

Offers Over £65,000

Three bedroom mid terraced property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory and bathroom.

Drivetime

Your guide to the latest motoring news and views



Qashqai a modern motoring success

Question: What connects Paddington in central London, with Cranfield in rural Buckinghamshire as well as Sunderland in the far north of England?

The answer is one of the biggest success stories in modern motoring, in the shape

of the Nissan Qashqai, a car that almost by itself started a new trend for cars which look tall and tough but are as easy to park as a hatchback and about as economical to run.

Since the first one rolled off the production line in Sunderland in 2007, more than 1,700,000 have been built.

Taking the pressure from what the pop industry calls 'that second, difficult album', the team at Nissan's European design centre in Cranfield did what all the research was telling them.

Existing Qashqai owners loved their cars but wouldn't mind a bit more style, a dash of extra technology and, please, keep a

tight rein on running costs.

So the new Qashqai looks like an entirely logical development of the first car.

Allied to upgraded petrol and diesel engines, this sharper-suited Qashqai now slips below the road tax barrier in its most frugal version, and all the rest use less fuel than before.

For the way it feels on the road we have the 1,000-strong team at Nissan's technical centre in Cranfield to thank. And what a fine job they've done.

Qashqai customers told the Nissan pollsters they didn't want a Golf GTI, thank you, but something that made them feel confident to drive.

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Models Shown: CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 On The Road; Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £16,995 On The Road; Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995 On The Road (OTR). **Terms and Conditions:** New retail CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £269 per month example shown based on CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD Manual in optional Passion Red Pearl at £22,495 total cash price including 5 year care package at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £4,456.64 (19%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £8,854.53, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. New retail Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £209 per month example shown based on Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S Manual in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £17,495 total cash price including 5 Year Care Plan at £500 (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £3,812.69 (22%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £6,158.38, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. New retail Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S registered from 2 January 2014 to 31 March 2014. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. The advertised saving of £1,200 (including VAT) discount to the OTR price for the Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S applied to the retail invoice. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £140 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.2 i-VTEC S in Milano Red Non-Metallic at £10,995. Total cash price including 5 Year Care Package (and total amount payable) with 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0% fixed) with £1,795.20 (16%) deposit, Guaranteed Future Value / Optional Final Payment of £4,159.72, annual mileage of 10,000 and excess mileage charge: 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 80U. The 5 Year Care Package includes **Service:** All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicles service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. **Warranty:** In addition to the standard 3 year warranty the customer will receive a complimentary 2 year extended guarantee taking the warranty to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **Roadside Assist:** In addition to the standard 3 years roadside assistance package the customer will receive complimentary HondaCare Assistance for a further 2 years, taking it to 5 years or 90,000 miles, whichever comes first. **The 5 Year Care Package:** The 5 Year Care Package is optional. It is being offered for £500 including VAT (usual value £1,545 including VAT) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

New Honda Civic set to be a winner in its sector

The Honda Civic might just be at its best in sleek Tourer guise. With 642-litres of luggage room with the rear seats in place and the cleverest seat folding system in the business, it's well worth a look.

Small estate cars are usually horrible. The styling never quite works, the cars looking like a hall of mirrors version of a bigger car, too high, not long enough and with an uncomfortable afterthought of glazing squiring the back end.

Every once in a while, an exception slips through the net, forcing you to wonder why car manufacturers find it so difficult to style what should be a longer and sleeker version of a supermini or family hatch. Here's one to join that exclusive list, the Honda Civic Tourer.

This estate version of the ninth generation Civic is built in Britain and doesn't come saddled with huge expectations. The compact estate car market has always been a bit of a backwater niche over here, so perhaps it's time for one model to get a solid run at it and turn things around.

So why does the Civic Tourer look so different to the usual cut and paste compact estate designs?

The first thing to note is that there's a genuinely cohesive front-to-rear flow to the design.

The rear end doesn't look like a hasty addition. Its styling is defined by a bold line that runs continuously from the front A-pillar to the D-pillar, creating the impression of a floating roof line.

The glass of the rear quarter window has been extended to cover the body work of the D-pillar and the rear door sash has been raised by 17mm compared to the Civic hatchback to create this bold styling line.

Inside, you get probably the best one-handed seat folding operation in the business – Honda's Magic Seats system. The interior boot floor has been raised compared to the hatchback to create a completely flat area when the seats are folded down. The rear seat cushions can also be flipped up to reveal ample floorspace for carrying tall objects. A 60:40 split in the seat base offers even more options for carrying both people and cargo. You get 624 cubic litres of boot volume with the rear seats in place and up to 1668-litres when they're folded.

Prices start at just over £20,000 for the base 1.8 i-VTEC petrol model, so you're talking a premium of around £1,900 over the equivalent five-door hatch. There's a choice of two engines, a 142PS 1.8 i-VTEC petrol with auto or manual transmission and manual gearbox 120PS 1.6 i-DTEC diesel.

As for equipment, well even the entry level S grade includes features such as Bluetooth Hands Free Telephone (HFT), DAB Radio, USB connectivity and 16in alloy wheels.

Benefit

In addition to these items, the SE Plus, the next level up, has rear parking sensors and 17in alloys, whilst SR customers will benefit from the new world first rear Adaptive Damper System (ADS), front heated seats, HDD sat nav and privacy glass. Those who opt for the top EX grade will receive headlight washers, smart entry and start capability, a sunglasses holder, interior blue ambient lighting and Bi-HID headlights with auto levelling.

The 1.6-litre diesel might at first seem to be the poor relation to Honda's 2.2-litre unit in terms of power but it aced the larger capacity engine when it comes to running costs.

Consider this. You'll get almost 75mpg from the astonishingly economical 120PS 1.6 diesel on the combined cycle. For a company which once thought diesel engines a bad idea, Honda has really stolen a march here.

The diesel engine is an absolute gem and safety and security are top drawer. Plus the Civic Tourer's styling is bold, clever and successful and crucially, there's plenty of space inside. Honda's folding seating system is the best in the business too. In summary, this car turns an average hatchback into a surprisingly effective and desirable estate.

It's not without its caveats, but right now this is the Civic body to choose and by quite some margin.

The creative team behind Honda's recent smash-hit viral film 'Hands' is aiming for further success with a new TV advertising campaign to welcome the Civic Tourer into Honda dealerships across the UK.

The campaign celebrates the idea that beauty is about much more than what appears on the surface. The creative plays to the trend in design, engineering and wider society of looks being valued over substance.

The viewer is taken on a journey through various objects, including a golf ball, suitcase, chest of drawers and a guitar amp, to reveal the inner beauty of each.

It then goes on to position the new Civic Tourer as another perfect example of 'Inner Beauty'; dynamic and sporty-looking, yet under the surface there lies practicality and function.

Olivia Dunn, head of marketing for Honda (UK) said: "Take a first glance at the Civic Tourer and you see a great-looking car."

"This campaign takes the viewer beyond that first appearance to emphasise the balance between style and performance, and the incredible practicality that the car delivers."

"Once again the team behind 'Hands' has brought the message to life in a fresh, innovative and compelling way in line with Honda's high standards and unique style."



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Drivetime



Improvements for hybrid

Lexus is making the most comprehensive package of improvements yet to the CT 200h range, which will make the market's only full hybrid luxury hatchback an even more appealing proposition.

The upgrades are matched by a strengthening of the CT 200h's impressive value, with significant reductions in prices and attractive finance options that open up the

prospect of Lexus ownership to many more customers.

The 2014 CT 200h range is available from £20,995 for the entry level S model, a £1,000 reduction; elsewhere in the six-strong line-up, prices have fallen by as much as £1,500.

The smooth, quiet and supremely refined performance of the Lexus Hybrid Drive system that powers the CT 200h (which complies with forthcoming Euro 6 emissions standards) also keeps fuel bills low, with official combined cycle consumption figures of

78.5mpg for the S grade, and 68.9mpg for the other models in the range.

The F Sport model adopts the same mesh pattern grill as the new IS F Sport saloon. It also gains a new rear spoiler with integrated air ducts. New detailing, wheel designs and a shark's fin antenna have also been introduced across the CT range.

Going beyond visual changes, the CT 200h benefits from changes under the skin to deliver better ride quality, stability and handling. The current range of six model grades is retained,

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Drivetime



Special edition for Panda 4x4

Fiat is celebrating 30 years and 500,000 sales of its iconic all-wheel drive city car with the special edition Fiat Panda 4X4 Antarctica.

Designed to stand out, the Antarctica is only available in white with a black roof, orange detailing, diamond-finish 15-inch alloy wheels and special badges.

Inside, the Fiat Panda 4X4 Antarctica features grey and orange upholstery. Standard features include dark-tinted

rear privacy glass, a height adjustable driver's seat and three-passenger rear seat with 60:40 split/folding backrests. As with all FIAT Panda 4X4s sold in the UK, the Antarctica edition also features air conditioning, ESC stability control, an electronic locking differential (ELD), specially tuned suspension, mud-and-snow tyres and rugged bodywork protection all as standard.

Powered either by Fiat's award-winning 85hp 0.9 TwinAir petrol engine or a 75hp 1.3-litre MultiJet II turbo diesel engine, the Fiat Panda 4X4 Antarctica

offers a unique combination of exceptionally low running costs and genuine off-road capability which is unmatched by any competitor vehicle.

Just 300 examples of the Fiat Panda 4X4 Antarctica will be built for the UK market priced from £14,895 on-the-road. Meanwhile demand for the standard Fiat Panda 4X4, recently named '2014 Mini 4X4' by the UK's off-road enthusiast publication, 4X4 Magazine, and Top Gear magazine's SUV of the Year 2012, has been so strong that a waiting list has developed.

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- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
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- 10 Personals

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1 Family

elderly & disabled

ADJUSTAMATIC double bed,
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Excellent condition,
4 wheels.
Folds into boot.
Can deliver free if local.
£295.
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MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
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WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned
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SCALEXTRIC Italian Job set, all
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2 Leisure Time

what's on

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WANTED

STATIC CARAVAN
SWIFT BURGUNDY
2009, 35 x 12, 3 bed, 8 berth,
central heating, double glazed,
excellent condition, sited in
Barmouth Bay, Wales.
£18,495 ono.
07971 184135.

SWIFT FAIRWAY 460, 2 berth.
2010. Motor Mover, 2 awnings.
Recently serviced. Ready to go.
£8,900. 01384 74465.

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Any Age or Condition
CASH WAITING
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Anything considered.
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coin operated, good condition, with
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TWO SETS OF GOLF CLUBS
One 1/2 set ladies with bag.
One gents full set wood irons in
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£85 ono. Both.
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holidays

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Cosalt Riviera Caravan
35x10, 3-bed: Sea Views,
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Perfect condition

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3 Home & Services

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SUITE gold dralon, reversible, very
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01902 738922.

BRIDGECRAFT THREE PIECE
SUITE gold dralon, reversible, very
good condition, £250.
01902 738922.

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seater and 2, 2 seater, good condition,
£150 each or £400 the lot.
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ELECTRIC rise and recline armchair
with matching 2 seater settee and
pouffe, beige, scotch guarded, 2
years old, £500. 01384 459480.

HSL SOFA Helmsley, 2 seater, new
Jan 2013, can view online at HSL,
cost £555, sell £155.
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totally unused, still in packing,
brown leather, cost £1,400, accept
£400, can deliver. 07511 483201.

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KEDLESTON 3/4 SEATER
SOFA
with valance skirting, arm
throws, 2 side cushions, all
hand made, solid wood frame, 6
star fabric covering in antique
gold with touches of black,
truly comfortable classic
design, professionally cleaned
last year. Cost new £2,349.
Will sell £400 for quick sale
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REAL BARGAIN!

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£20.
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in your garden

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Building Sand
Paving/Concrete Sand
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MOWER
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items wanted

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consider all of their options
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

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Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
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• Clocks • Paintings • All silver
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• Military Items
Pre '47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD &
INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

COINS AND WAR MEDALS wanted
by private collector.
Please contact 01902 676540.

ITEMS FOR CASH: toys, electric
goods, bikes, Lof/garages wanted
07733 295678 or 0800 8589719.

MINI MIG welder wanted, with or
without bottle.
Contact 07580 044172.

WANTED DVDs, CDs and Blu-rays,
good price paid, can collect.
Please call 07889 487889.

WANTED GOODYEAR tyre ash-
trays. Please call
07504 263510.

WANTED
Working flight simulator.
Telford 01952 504466.

pc's, laptops & accessories

LAPTOP Computer, windows, wire-
less, with, office, good condition,
can deliver and show working £20
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t.v. / home entertainment

service

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Wall mounts & TV setups.
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specialists at your service

aerials

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£85
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All work guaranteed
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All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester
Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• Watches • Costume Jewellery • Old toys
• Clocks • Paintings • All silver
• Chinese Items • Old Ivory
• Military Items
Pre '47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD &
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Telford 01952 504466.

pc's, laptops & accessories

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£450/£750, 07867 530504.

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Very small, £450. With papers.
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seen, £220. 01298 961586 / 07989 280633.

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weeks old, big boned, both parents
can be seen. £350. 01746 761279 /
07850 569996.

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old, health reasons forces sale,
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6 Property

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no pets. 07507 259621.

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general**
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CABRIOLET** (07/57), 44,000
miles, 1999cc, petrol, blue, tax,
MoT, immaculate, £4,600. 07738
219463.

FORD FOCUS LX TDCI 1.8 diesel,
5Dr, 2007, metallic grey, August
MoT, April tax, 94,000 miles,
£2,795. 07949 990640.



FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC
2007,(07 reg), Climate Pack,
61,000 miles, silver, petrol,
fish MoT, 4 months tax,
alloy wheels, good condition,
reluctant sale.
£3,450.
01902 843576.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD KA STUDIO
2011, white, 7,000 miles, petrol,
manual, warranty, tax,
stop/start, 64mpg, air bags, CD
radio, MP3, AUX.
Immaculate.
No agents.
£6,200.
07711 527428/01384 442468.

MUST BE SEEN

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SE 2.0DCI

2005(55), 136,000 miles, 11
months MoT, tax, green, cream
leather, Sat Nav, all Jaguar
refinements, new clutch/fly-
wheel. Superb!

£3,000 ono.
Telephone 07957 806473.

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2000 Automatic, S reg., full MoT,
FSH, immaculate condition £1,800
ono. 01562 851277.

MINI ONE 8 months tax, 12 months
MoT, silver, 78,000 miles, 54 reg.
£3,400. 07852 823239.

NISSAN MICRA ACENTA, 2008,
1.2, automatic, black, 26,000 miles,
5Dr, tax, MoT, £4,500. 07751
423281.



SKODA OCTAVIA
2002, 123,000 miles, silver,
abs, electric windows/sunroof,
air bag, electric mirrors, air con,
fish, alarm, long MoT, diesel,
central locking.
£1,700.
07454 001511.

TOYOTA AURIS 1.4
58 plate, excellent condition,
5dr, black, petrol, pas, air con,
electric windows, many other
features, must be seen,
company car forces sale,
Bargain **£4,800 ono.**
07557 091014.

TOYOTA AURIS TR, 2009, 27,000
miles, black, alloys, power steering,
warranty, £6,090 ono.
07506 871104.

TOYOTA AVENTIS 2.0 Diesel, 04
reg, MoT, fish, 3 keys, immaculate
in and out. Silver. £2,650 ono.
07710 714421 or 01902 862871.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Life Estate, 1.8
auto, blue, 57 reg., 35k, fish, MoT
October, six months tax, two new
tyres, £2,750. 07710 273211.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI 06
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Legend of snooker Davis to visit city

ONE of snooker's true legends will be giving players in Wolverhampton the chance to be champions.

Steve Davis, who won the World Championships six times in the 1980s, will take a break from his TV commitments to visit the city next month to run a tournament featuring 64 students from Highfields School in Penn.

The students, who are all aged between 11 and 16, will battle it out over 15-minute single frame contests with the eventual winner crowned champion.

Davis, aged 56, who put down his cue to appear on I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here! last year, will then play a special exhibition match against the victorious student.

The school's new sports hall will be converted into a mini-version of The Crucible for the tournament on March 4, with one full size table surrounded by 10 six feet tables.

Tim Rowley, PE teacher at Highfields said excitement was building amongst the students ahead of the arrival of The Sultan of

Captain in praise of Febian

ANDY BUTLER has saluted the impact of Febian Brandy after his return to Walsall.

Brandy's decision to face the flak from Saddlers fans – disappointed with his decision to take Sheffield United's offer last summer – has been rewarded by a triumphant impact in his new spell at the Banks's Stadium.

Not only has Brandy won over the supporters, but also his team-mates in the dressing room where his return on loan has been warmly received. Saddlers skipper Butler believes the striker's electric form has injected even greater belief in Dean Smith's squad that a top-six challenge can be maintained.

"There has been belief all season but I think Febian coming back has buoyed a lot of people up," he said.

"Just in his work-rate, he takes two people with him. All the players have progressed and it is credit to the lads for grafting hard," he added.

Anichebe makes most of Toure's gaffe

Albion 1 Liverpool 1

SEASON-CHANGING moments come in many different packages. And Albion must hope Kolo Toure's gift was the piece of fortune that puts the buzz back into The Hawthorns family.

Summer signing and lifelong Evertonian Victor Anichebe made full use of the Liverpool defender's blunder to give himself a sweet memory and his side a well-deserved share of the spoils.

And as the big forward's right-footed shot hit the net at the Birmingham Road end to avert a second defeat in a week, a stadium

that had been depressed and subdued for more than an hour came back to life along with Pepe Mel's team.

No-one of a blue and white persuasion will be counting their chickens after more than a year of false dawns and dashed hopes.

But as the volume was cranked up and Albion rediscovered some sparkle for the final 23 minutes of an otherwise flat encounter, Anichebe's goal felt like a moment that had prevented this Albion crisis from spiralling out of control.

For 67 largely forgettable minutes, a disjointed home side had

Football

laboured against an out-of-sorts Liverpool team and looked destined to slide to defeat to a Daniel Sturridge goal that came from a rare aberration from a much-improved Baggies back four.

There was plenty of endeavour but precious little cohesion from Mel's men as they once more looked like a weary group of men stranded in a tactical No Man's Land between two footballing philosophies. And as a healthy 26,000-plus crowd fidgeted nerv-

ously and stared at another costly afternoon, The Hawthorns was as deathly quiet and resigned to failure as it has been in years.

Suddenly, as Toure's errant pass was seized upon by Anichebe and the powerful targetman stroked the coolest of efforts past a helpless Simon Mignolet, the stands erupted in a mixture of joy and relief and the whole feel of the occasion was transformed.

It was a change in the emotional tide that Mel must pray can carry his battle-scarred troops to greater feats of belief and conviction for some vital dates that lie ahead in

the near future which could prove to be crucial.

And should they survive their brush with relegation and remain in the top division when this season of turmoil and recrimination comes to an end, Albion fans might look back at Toure's generosity as a vital ingredient in keeping them afloat.

For the most part, there was little to encourage supporters from another worrying afternoon, despite Mel answering the clamour for change by restoring Billy Jones and Gareth McAuley to a side that imploded defensively against Villa.

Woffinden handed captain's mantle

WORLD champion Tai Woffinden has been handed the Great Britain captaincy by new team manager Alun Rossiter.

The Wolves star takes over from Chris Harris after becoming the nation's first world champion since Mark Loram in 2000.

And speaking from Australia, where he is wintering with friends, Woffinden declared: "This is another very proud moment for me and a great way to start 2014."

"I was born in Scunthorpe, my family are all British and when I came back to the UK after spending my childhood in Australia I was keen to represent my country."

I feel very proud and passionate and I know what it has meant to British speedway to have a British world champion. Now I hope I can play my part in helping us as a nation have a much improved World Cup and help some of the younger riders come through.

"When my mum and dad brought us back to England to give me a chance as a professional speedway rider, who would have thought I would become world champion and GB skipper within a few months of each other? It's a great feeling!"

Jones is off to 'FA Cup' of darts

TIPTON'S Ian Jones is going to 'the FA Cup of Darts' after winning a spot at the PDC's televised UK Open next month through a qualifier in Wolverhampton.

The former West Midlands county and BDO player, a shed-maker by day, battled through Sunday's field of 72 entrants at Rileys Sports Bar, on Broad Street.

He wins a place at the ITV4 screened finals, made up of the top 96 in the UK Open Order of Merit, played between the professionals, and 32 regional qualifiers.

Butlins in Minehead are staging the event for the first time this year and 'Whippet' could go on to play the likes of Phil Taylor or world champion Michael van Gerwen. Jones was one of four board winners alongside fellow Tipton darter Jason Lowe.

The two Tiptonites made it through to the final but it was Jones who prevailed.

DK squad now staring relegation in the face

Dudley Kingswinford 5 Bromsgrove 41
THIS was a game that DK targeted as a possible first win of the season, but limped out in the end well beaten by Bromsgrove, who were the better of two poor teams on the day.

For the home side, flankers Danny Hawkins and Peter Knight worked tirelessly throughout, ably supported by back row colleague Jon Tideswell.

Second row Ed Parry and Nick Murphy put in a full shift, ably supported by hooker Matt Humphreys whose strong runs took a lot of stopping. DK opened strongly and playing with the strong wind behind them put pressure on the visitors but lacked that vital cutting edge to finish off their mounting attacks. All they had to show for their efforts was a penalty attempt some 30 metres out, but fly half Kieran Pinches pulled his kick agonisingly wide of the post.

Impetus

This appeared to take some of the impetus away and Bromsgrove soon capitalized with two quick tries, first by fly half Aaron Higgins and then flanker David Hughes, the latter being converted by Higgins.

DK's cause was not helped when influential lock Nick Murphy was sin binned for repeated infringements at the breakdown after 20 minutes, but somehow they denied the visitors any further scoring opportunities when down to 14 men. Murphy returned to the fray, and

Rugby

this sparked DK into action and after some sustained pressure on the visitors' line, prop Dan Shakespeare forced his way over in the corner for DK's only score of the game. Pinches conversion attempt came up short of the mark.

Bromsgrove came storming back and were rewarded with another try scored by their impressive No.8, Solomon Dacres, with Higgins narrowly missing the conversion.

The second half continued in the same vein with DK still attempting to play their expansive game but just lacking the finishing touches. Bromsgrove took full advantage and were rewarded with four further tries scored by hooker George Glenn, David Hughes bagging a second, a harsh penalty try, and finally wing Sam Bostock for the final play of the match. Higgins added the conversions to two of them.

This week the team travel to Harrogate – Kick off 2 pm



Nick Murphy picks up the ball and drives forward for Dudley Kingswinford in the match against Bromsgrove which



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DK downed
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Page 39



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Villa for sale is rubbish says club

ASTON Villa have rejected claims they have been put up for sale.

The claret and blues have rubbished reports they are on the market and chairman Randy Lerner wants to sell.

Lerner bought Villa for £62.6m in 2006 and was reportedly looking for £200m to get a return on his investment, including transfer fees and upgrades to Villa Park and Bodymoor Heath.

But Villa have distanced themselves and insisted Lerner is not looking to leave.

Chief executive Paul Faulkner said: "I can categorically confirm Aston Villa Football Club has absolutely not been put up for sale and that Randy Lerner is not actively looking to sell the club."

The speculation came after Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Everton as Villa conceded twice in the last 16 minutes to lose at Goodison Park.

Kevin Mirallas' late winner won it for the Toffees after Steven Naismith cancelled out Leandro Bacuna's first-half opener.

Boss Paul Lambert said: "Since the turn of the year we've been in pretty good form."

"I think tiredness crept in and it's a wonder goal which has settled it. I thought we were comfortable in the game and in the first half we never looked under threat."

Jones is out of the fight

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Wayne Jones was put out in the third round by title winner Gary Anderson in the weekend's PDC German Darts Championship.

"The Wanderer" bowed out after putting up a fight against the on-fire 'Flying Scotsman', who hit a 161 finish to set up his victory on Sunday afternoon.

The pair shared the opening four legs before Anderson made his move, taking the fifth with the aid of a 180 before defying a maximum reply from Jones.

Anderson broke Jones' though in the next for a 4-2 lead but the Wednesfield darter broke back, punishing two missed darts at tops from the Scot.

Jones hit another 180 as he levelled, but Anderson found another gear with 161 for a 12-darter to move 5-4 up and then finishing the next leg in 14 to win.

Penalty corners prove bane of Old Hales

Hampton 6 OHHC 1sts 3

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club fell to a defeat against second placed Hampton-In-Arden, as they conceded a string of penalty corners in the second half.

With nothing to lose, Hales travelled to Hampton hoping to steal a result against their 'bogey team', and they opened the scoring early on when Tom Bulteel found the net.

Hampton equalised soon after with a well worked routine, which was played short and fired past goalkeeper Aiden Lockyer.

Whilst Hales dominated early periods of possession, Hampton soon settled into the

Hockey

game, but they were able to restore their lead, when Harry Hughes pressurised the Hampton centre back.

Man of the Match Hughes robbed the failing defending, and put the ball past the home side's goalkeeper.

Hampton were able to grab a goal back from another penalty corner to draw the game level at 2-2, and Hales were able to keep the score level with some goal-line defending from debutant Cole Hickman.

Hales continued to pile the pressure on

their hosts in the second half, and Charles Palmer was able to find the net to put Hales ahead for the third time in the game.

A well-worked passing move saw Palmer unable to miss from close range.

However, this was to be the visitor's final goal of the game, as Hampton stepped up the pressure on the Hales defence.

Penalty corners were being forced by Hampton who were simply playing for these set-pieces.

Their tactic paid off, and with some luck they drew the scores level again.

Their initial drag flick struck the crossbar, and fell straight back to the flicker

who was able to slot the ball past the Hales defensive line. Hampton continued to win penalty corners, and scored three more times before the end of the game to make it 6-3.

Hales were unfortunate not to take something from the game, as the result did not reflect their grit, determination and performance over the 70 minutes.

This week they host Kings Heath, 1.30pm at Ormiston Forge Academy.

Other Results: Harborne 6 OHHC Ladies 1sts 0; OHHC 2nds 2 North Staffs 1; Harborne 3 OHHC Ladies 2nds 3; OHHC 3rds 2 Shrewsbury 1; North Staffs 0 OHHC 4ths 2.

Starke is the new captain

CRADLEY have handed Paul Starke, one of last season's Grand Slam stars, the captaincy.

Starke made a major impact with the club's supporters during a memorable campaign and his return for 2014 has gone down well.

And although he knows he has big shoes to fill, Starke believes the Heathens reshaped side is capable of defending the title.

He said: "I'm absolutely delighted to get the chance to be captain this year, and it's a real honour."

"As a club we had a great season in 2013, so I have big shoes to fill but if I can take over the role Ashley (Morris) did then I'll be chuffed."

"Last year we had an incredible year, so to try and emulate what we did is going to be a real challenge."

"But we look like we have a strong team, and we have a few riders who could make big strides in the sport at the moment."

"Personally I'll be looking to just help as much as I can as captain and try to score as many points as possible at No.1 to take some pressure off the lower order."

"It's nice to have some people pushing me in the team."

Hause-ing first team ambition

AMBITIOUS new boy Courtney Hause says he aims of making the Wolves first-team this season.

The 18-year-old left-sided centre-back was a surprise addition late on transfer deadline day when he arrived from Wycombe on a two-and-a-half-year contract. Hause, who has played 31 games for the League Two side.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford. Thursday, February 6.

LETFORD'S GOAL KEEPS YELTZ RUN

Rushall 1 Halesowen 1

HALESOWEN without playing a game for 14 days, travelled to north Walsall to take on league leaders Rushall.

Halesowen with games in hand and going into the game undefeated were ready for a battle and their opponents were ready to give them one.

Football

On a heavy and small pitch which wouldn't really suit the visiting team it was going to be a tight affair against the top dogs.

The home side started strongly and were clearly up for the fight to preserve their standing as the leaders of the league.

Halesowen soaked up the early pressure with centre backs Charlotte Byatt and Dominique McKee getting in some late tackles to keep the attackers at bay.

With Rushall's 4-5-1 system the Yeltz midfield of Sarah Hammill Tracey Haycock were working over time to keep on top of things and make sure Rushall didn't get the upper hand.

Cleared

From a Rushall corner on 24 minutes, the ball was cleared on to fall just outside the area and a well-taken finish by the Rushall player gave the home side the lead.

This seem to perk up the travelling Halesowen side and Rachel Letford had a one-on-one with the keeper which just went wide.

Midfield player Lyndsey Glover again put Letford through and with a well-taken volley lifted the ball over the keeper to bring the scores back to level pegging.

The second half started

pretty much as the first has left off and again Halesowen and Rushall had several chances to score but neither could take advantage of the opportunities presented to them.

Hannah Tromans made two quality saves to keep Rushall from doubling their tally and keep her team mates in the running.

Halesowen's Tracey Haycock had two shots which both went whistling past the crossbar.

Sophie Richards and Chloe Harris both came close to scoring but a mixture of solid defending and good goalkeeping stopping the Yeltz from their 10th straight win but as it turned out they remained undefeated.

Manager Scott McKee said: "We started slowly but we improved as the game went on."

"The pitch was heavy and we were not playing last week we weren't at our best, we didn't lose away which is good and everyone gave their all," added the manager.

Halesowen were due to play West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday at the Grove as they seek to progress in the County Cup.



Rachel Letford is congratulated by some of her team mates after levelling the scores against Rushall

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